IRONCAT
IRONCAT L.L.C
February 2002
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$4.50 CAN

FUTABA KUN CHANGE

ふたば君、ゆれる…!?の巻
Futaba-kun Sways...?!

I SAID IT ONCE AND I'LL SAY IT AGAIN.
ON THE EVENING OF THE LAST DAY BEFORE BREAK, THERE WILL BE A CHRISTMAS DANCE PARTY IN THE GYM!
BUT THIS WON'T BE JUST ANY OL' DANCE... YOU MUST DRESS UP, WEAR A COSTUME, OR YOU WON'T GET IN! SO EVERYBODY GO ALL OUT ON THE DUDS.
YOU WON'T HAVE TO PAY ANYTHING! OUR PRINCIPAL HAS DECIDED TO SPONSOR US, SO IT'S ABSOLUTELY FREE!
EVERYONE COME OUT AND HAVE A GOOD TIME!

...AND THAT CONCLUDES OUR LUNCH TIME BROADCAST.

HMMM... NEGIRI KEEPS PLANNING BIGGER AND BIGGER THINGS.

HEY, SHIMERU, HURRY UP WITH MY NOTEBOOK.
SORRY, JUST A LITTLE LONGER!

I'M TOO FAR BEHIND ON MY STUDIES!
I ONLY KNOW BITS AND PIECES FOR THE FINALS!
SCRIBBLE! SCRIBBLE! SCRIBBLE!

?
WHAT THE...?
HEY TAKERU, WHAT DID YOU WRITE HERE?
WHERE?
UMMM...
DON'T WRITE STUFF IN YOUR NOTEBOOK THAT YOU CAN'T EVEN READ!!!
I'M LET-TING YOU BORROW IT, SO STOP WHINING!!
THIS IS BAD...
THERE'S NO TIME LEFT...
MISAKI HASN'T TAKEN ANY NOTES EITHER BECAUSE SHE'S BEEN WITH FUTABA-CHAN...
ARGH!

C-COME TO THINK OF IT, MY ATTENDANCE HASN'T BEEN VERY GOOD SINCE I STARTED CHANGING.
I WONDER IF I CAN STILL PASS...
GLOOM...
...THIS IS NO TIME TO GET DEPRESSED!
COULD I BORROW SOME-ONE'S...
SHAKE
SHAKE
HERE.
歴史
NEGIRI!
WHAT IS IT WORTH?
NOTEBOOK: "HISTORY"
UH OH... I'VE BEEN ABSENT TOO MANY TIMES WORKING AS FUTABA-CHAN!
YOU WANT MONEY?
OF COURSE I DO!

WELL, YOU KNOW THAT AS FUTABA-CHAN'S MANAGER I'VE BEEN BUSY, SO THIS NOTEBOOK REQUIRED FUNDS TO CREATE.
ALL RIGHT...
YOU CAN BORROW MY NOTE-BOOK...
HEY, WAIT!
HERE... TAKE THIS.
FUTA-BA!
THANKS, AND COME AGAIN! ♪
GLOMPH!
I SATHD (I SAID) WRTH A MNMIT (WAIT A MINUTE)!
HERE, BORROW MINE.
UH...IS THAT REALLY OK!?
NUTS! THERE GOES MY PROFIT!
BESIDES, WE LIVE UNDER THE SAME ROOF.
HMPH
YOU CAN GIVE IT BACK ANY TIME.

KURIN...
EH?

UM...

THANKS, I REALLY NEEDED THIS.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT YOU'VE THANKED ME.

WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, COULD YOU TAKE NOTES FOR ME NEXT PERIOD?
I NEED TO LEAVE EARLY TO GO TAKE CARE OF A LITTLE SOMETHING.
HUH?

...WHAT'S WITH HER LATELY?

YIKES!
THAT WAS SUSPICIOUS!
M-MISAKI!?
UH... HELLO?
KURIN'S BEING TOO NICE!
COULD IT BE...
THANKS FOR THE NOTEBOOK.
HAHAHAH, I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS!
NOW I'LL GET MY PAYBACK!
TUG
HUH?
HEH HEH HEH... LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN GETTING CLOSER TO THAT MISAKI LATELY.
BUT THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, YOU BELONG TO ME!
POB POB POB POB
NO, STOP!
HO HO HO! NO ONE WILL SAVE YOU! JUST BE QUIET AND LEARN YOUR PLACE!
...SHE'S GOT SOMETHING LIKE THAT IN MIND!
GRR
GRR
GRR
MI... MISAKI, SOME TIMES YOU'RE REALLY ODD.

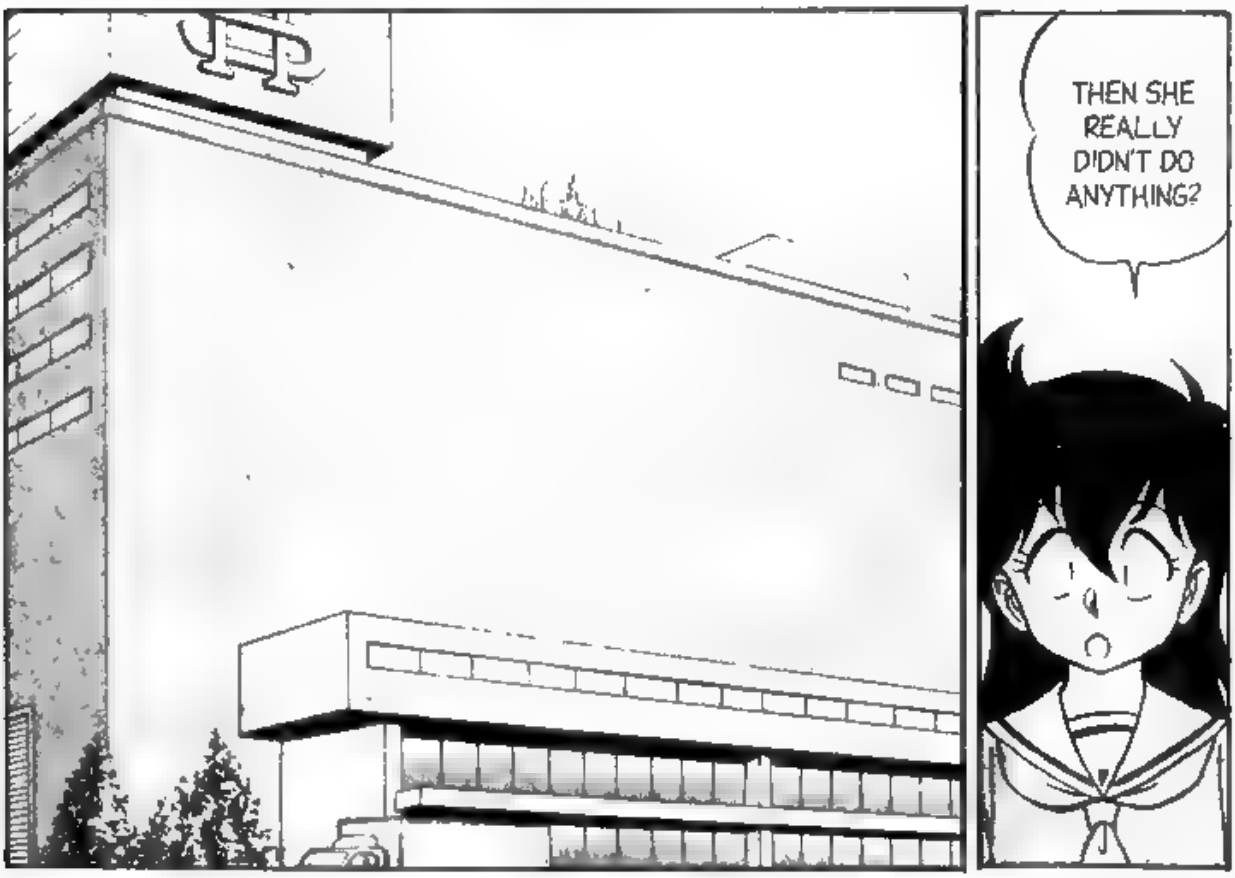
YOU BE CAREFUL, OK?
...IT'LL WORK OUT SOMEHOW.
NOK NOK!

WHAT?
KCHK
THANKS FOR THE NOTEBOOK. HERE'S THIS AFTERNOON'S NOTES, TOO.

OK, THANKS.
KCHUNK!
EH?

WHAT'S WRONG?
KCHK
YOU WON'T... DO ANY-THING?

DO YOU WANT ME TO DO SOME-THING?
WELL, THAT'S NOT REALLY WHAT I...
FINE, THEN.
GOOD NIGHT.
KCHAKU
SOO


THEN SHE REALLY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING?

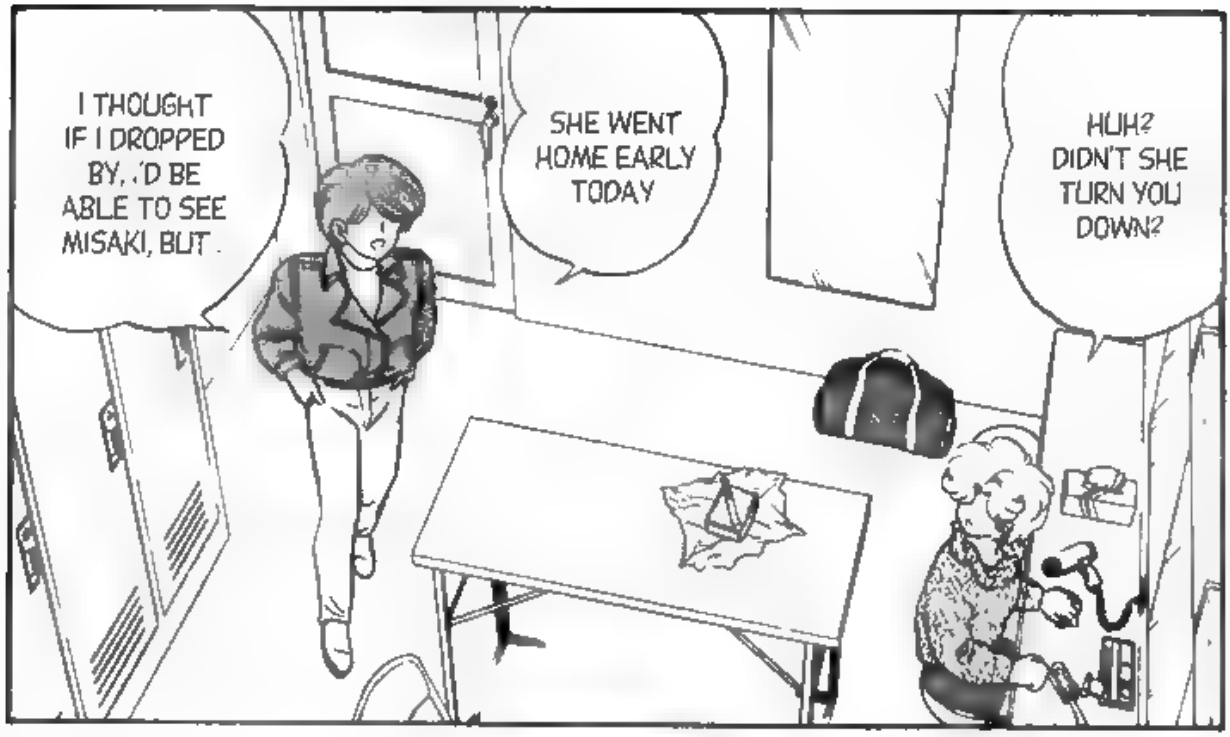
THAT WAS MY REACTION, TOO.
WHAT COULD BE GOING ON?
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, LATELY SHE'S BEEN SHUT UP IN HER ROOM DOING SOMETHING.
EVEN UNTIL LATE
STUDYING FOR EXAMS?
IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE SHE WAS STUDYING...
THEN MAYBE IT'S THAT.
PLEASE TELL ME!
GEEZ...! YOU SURE ARE SLOW, FUTABA.
IT'S WHAT A GIRL DOES ALONE AT NIGHT WHEN SHE DOESN'T WANT ANYONE ELSE TO SEE..
WHAT'S "THAT?"
?
I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO TALK ABOUT IT!

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: "USHI NO KOKU MAIRI" LITERALLY MEANS "VISITING THE SHRINE AT THE HOUR OF THE COW," WHICH IS ROUGHLY 2AM. THIS IS A PRACTICE WHICH ORIGINATED DURING THE EDO PERIOD (1603-1867), AND INVOLVES NAILING AN IMAGE, USUALLY MADE OF STRAW OR PAPER, OF A PERSON TO A TREE AT A SHRINE. THE PURPOSE IS TO PLACE A CURSE ON SOMEONE. THE TRADITIONAL GARB FOR THIS INVOLVED DRESSING ALL IN WHITE WITH A CROWN HOLDING TWO LIT CANDLES. IT'S MOSTLY USED NOW IN MANGA AND ANIME FOR COMEDIC EFFECT, FOR INSTANCE TO ILLUSTRATE THAT SOMEONE HAS A DEEP SEATED HATRED FOR SOMEONE ELSE.

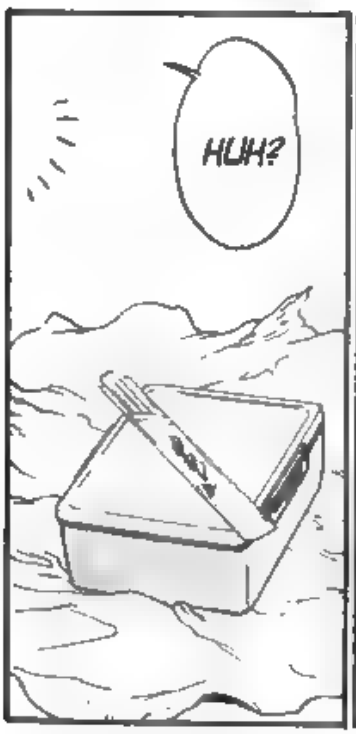
RAM
THE NIGHTLY RITUAL OF "USHI NO KOKU MAIRI!!"
RAM
I READ *INCANTATION MONTHLY* FOR FUN, AND IN HERE IT SAYS THIS IS A TRENDY THING TO DO RIGHT NOW
STOP READING STUFF LIKE THAT FOR FUN!!
呪い
BOOK: INCANTATION

YOU KNOW, FOR A DRESS!
ONE FOR THE DANCE PARTY!
OH... OK!
FUTABA-KUN! I WON'T TELL YOU NOT TO DANCE WITH OTHER GIRLS, BUT I GET YOUR FIRST ONE.
RI-RIGHT!

SEE YA!
OH!
YES, I HAVE TO DO A LITTLE SHOPPING.
HMM, TOO BAD.
I CAME OVER HERE JUST TO SEE YOUR FACE
OH, MAKO.
LEAVING ALREADY? WE WERE ABOUT TO START FILMING.
COME ON, DON'T START THAT AGAIN..
I STILL HAVEN'T GIVEN UP... YET.
CAN I COME IN, FUTABA-CHAN?
GO AHEAD!

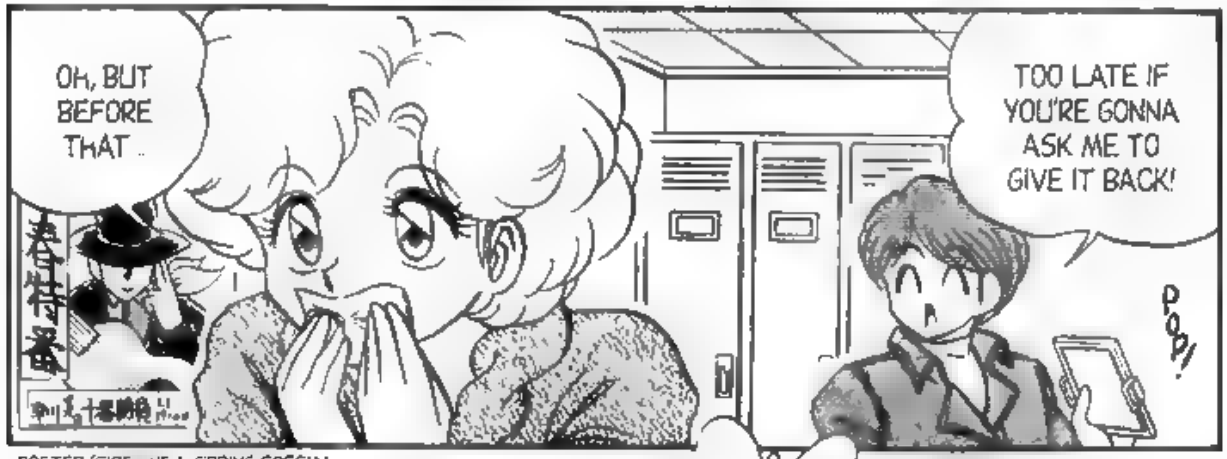

I THOUGHT IF I DROPPED BY, I'D BE ABLE TO SEE MISAKI, BUT...
SHE WENT HOME EARLY TODAY
HUH? DIDN'T SHE TURN YOU DOWN?

I'M NOT ABOUT TO GIVE UP AFTER BEING LET DOWN JUST ONCE.
AND I CAN'T ADMIT DEFEAT WHEN I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT MY RIVAL LOOKS LIKE!


HUH?

DID YOU MAKE YOURSELF A BOX LUNCH TODAY?
THAT'S THE ONE THAT MISAKI MADE FOR ME.

WOW !!!



POSTER (SIDE). NEW SPRING SPECIAL

ITADAKI-MASU*!

BGUPLP!

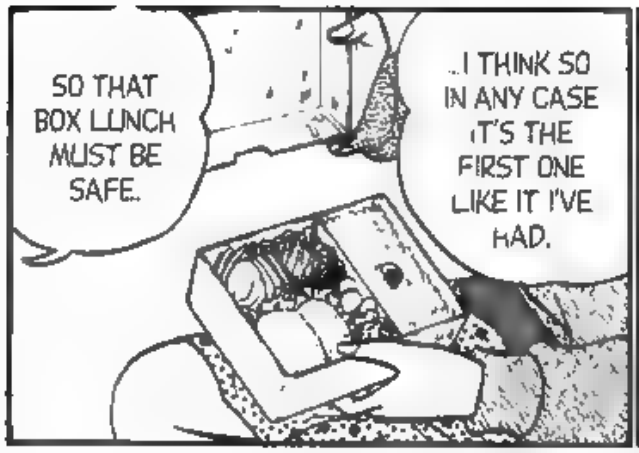
*TRANSLATOR'S NOTE. THIS IS A RITUALIZED EXPRESSION SAID BEFORE EATING A MEAL.

GU!
SPOOSH!

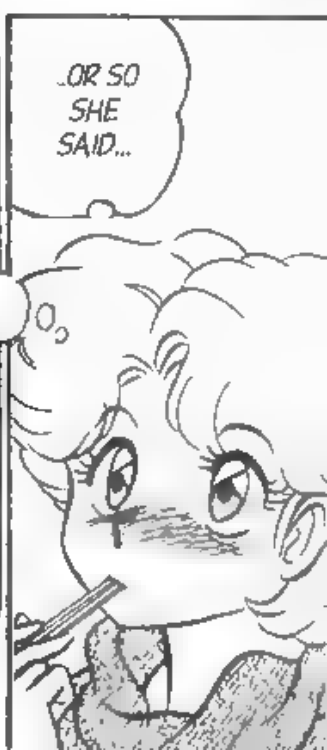
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WHA... WHAT THE HELL DID I JUST EAT!?

MISAKI'S HAND-MADE BOX LUNCH!
I'LL TELL YOU NOW THAT THIS IS THEIR USUAL FLAVOR.

HMM... MAYBE I WAS LUCKY SHE TURNED ME DOWN...
AND SO...
IT'S MEAN TO MISAKI, BUT I'M GOING TO EAT THIS ONE INSTEAD



SIGN: SHIMERU



KANJI: "YUMMY!"

I CAN'T TELL WHAT ANYTHING TASTES LIKE RIGHT NOW!
I'D BETTER GET SOME MOUTHWASH.
OH, I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
新春特番
WANT TO TRY THIS ONE TOO, MAK-CHAN?

POSTER (ON RIGHT), "NEW SPRING SPECIAL" (AT TOP). HOWEVER, IT'S #2 IN JAPAN.

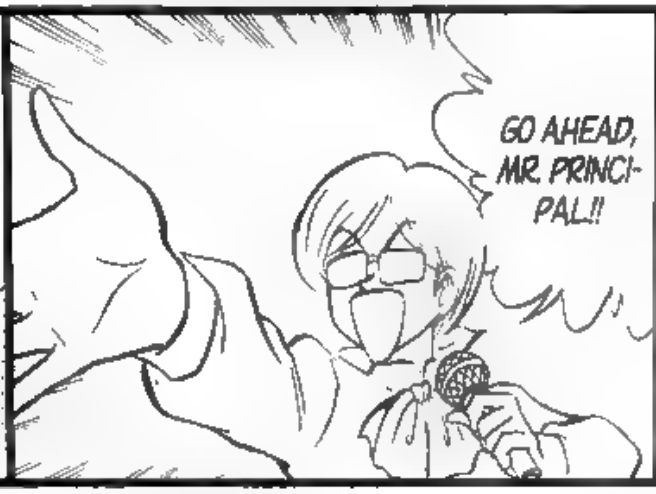
HMM?
MAK-CHAN, WHY'S YOUR FACE SWOLLEN UP ALL OF A SUDDEN!?
WELL... IT LOOKS LIKE I ENDED UP EATING ABOUT 50,000 CALORIES IN ONE BITE...
IF I END UP DATING HER IN THE FUTURE, SHE'LL SURE BE A SKILLFUL COOK!
I LEARNED THAT LESSON TODAY!
ATATA
IT'S TOO BAD, BUT AS FAR AS COOKING GOES...
TONK!
THE PROBLEM ITSELF ISN'T HER SKILL, BUT RATHER HOW SHE TASTES THINGS...
AH!
WHAT THE HECK AM I THINKING!?

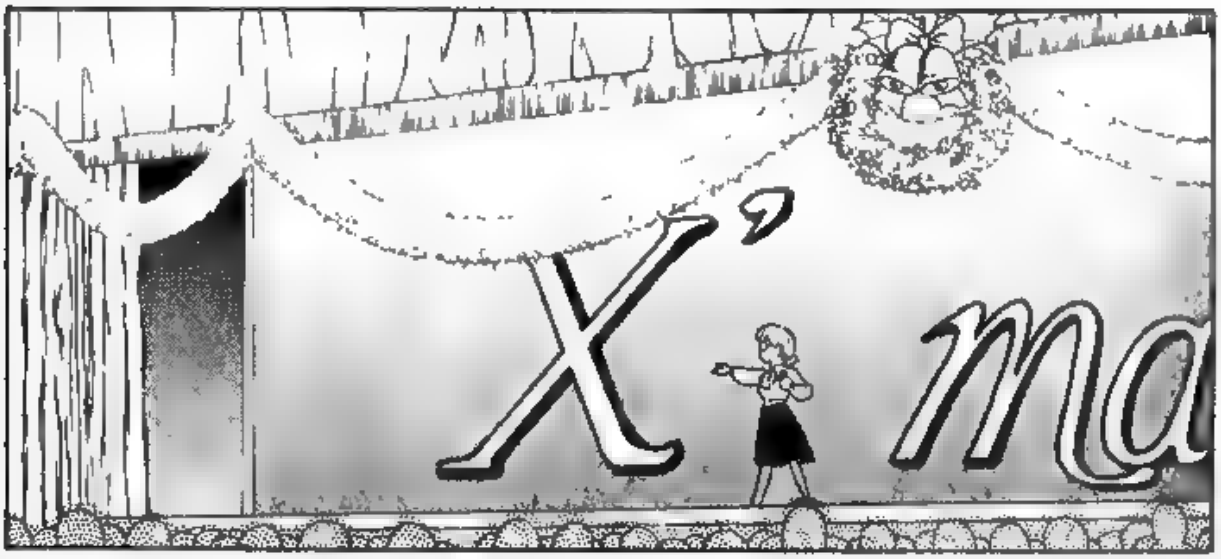
I JUST COMPARED SOMEONE TO MISAKI!!!
BOP!
BOP!
BOP!
BOP!
BOP!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, FUTABA!?
YES?
THIS SUCKS! MY MALE LEAD'S FACE LOOKS HORRIBLE..
HEY, FUTABA-CHAN?
WHAT IS WRONG WITH MY CO-STARS!?
THAT'S IT FOR THE DAY! FORGET IT!!
I'M SORRY!!
LOOK! THIS PUTS US A DAY BEHIND SCHEDULE!
YOU! TWO FIX YOUR FACES AND BE BACK HERE TOMORROW!
LIRK! THAT MEANS I'LL HAVE TO WORK THE DAY OF THE DANCE!

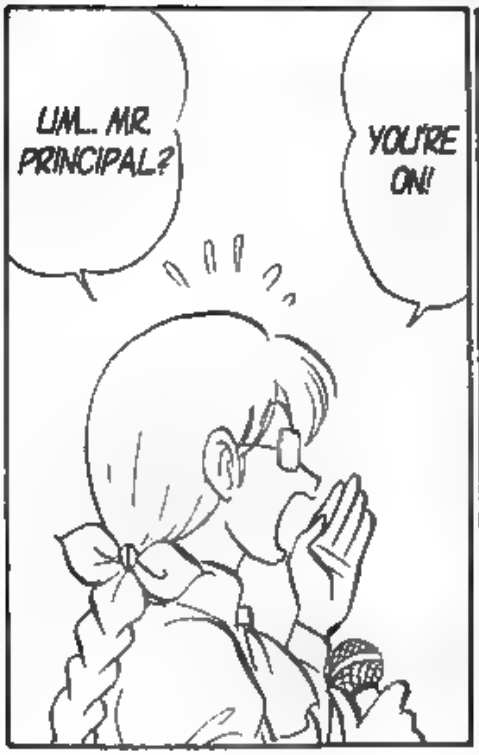
AND SO, THE DAY OF THE DANCE...
CHATTER!
CHATTER!
CHATTER!
CHATTER!
IS EVERY-ONE READY!?

THEN LET'S GET GOING!!
X'mas
PAA

BUT BEFORE WE START THE MUSIC...
SHOULDN'T WE HAVE A WORD FROM OUR GENEROUS SPONSOR?


GO AHEAD, MR. PRINCIPAL!!


X'ma


UM.. MR. PRINCIPAL?
YOU'RE ON!

WHAT'S WRONG?
HELLO?

WUHAHA
HAHAHA
HAHAHA

MERRY CHRIST-MAS!!
M-M-MR. PRINCI-PAL...
NO! I AM THE ACTING PRINCIPAL, THE SANTA CLAUS OF JUSTICE!!
YAH!!
JUMP!
HOO HO, HO!!
CRASH!!

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: TEXT ABOVE READS "DOM CHAKA" SO THINK OF DANCE BEATS

WHY!?
SOB
SOB
SOB

AT A DANCE!
ONE THAT I WISHED TO ATTEND!

WHY MUST I BE DOING SOMETHING LIKE THIS!?
CAUSE THE WRESTLING TEAM IS HOSTING IT, OF COURSE!

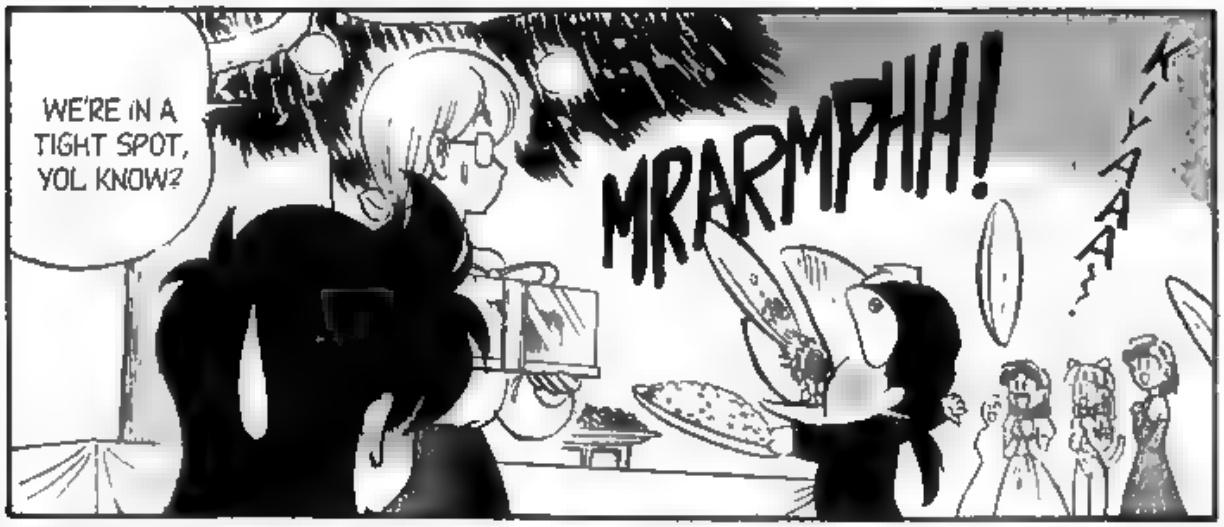
COME ON, GET TO WORK!
HAH...

I EVEN BOUGHT A DRESS FOR THIS.

WHAT DID FUTABA MEAN, THAT HE HAD TO WORK TODAY, TOO...!?
MISAKI HAS NO IDEA THAT HER BOX LUNCH IS WHAT CAUSED THAT...

I EVEN BAKED A CAKE FOR HIS CHRISTMAS PRESENT...!!
OH!

LOOK WHAT YOU'VE GOT!
GOOD TIMING! THIS MUST BE MEANT FOR PARTY FOOD. ♪
NO, THAT'S-!
SWIPE!


WE'RE IN A TIGHT SPOT, YOU KNOW?
MRARMPHH!
KYAAA!

HEADS UP!
LEAP!

OK, THIS NEXT DANCE IS THE LAST ONE!
AND IT'S YOUR LAST CHANCE TO CHOOSE A DANCE PARTNER!
WHEW... IT'S FINALLY OVER!
THIS JOB WAS PRETTY BORING
GLANCE

TO BE CONTINUED...

IRONCAT

IRONCAT

March 2002
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FUTABA-KUN CHANGE

LET'S DANCE. ♪

SIRHC 02.10.12

SO I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH?

SHU... SHUSENDO*!?

WOW... LOOK AT THOSE TWO...

MISAKI!

*TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: YOSHER RECOGNIZES NEGIRI DUE TO HER KANSAI-BEN (A DISTINCT DIALECT) ACCENT IN THE ORIGINAL JAPANESE TEXT.

FUTABA!!
SORRY THAT I'M LATE.
GUESS I MADE IT FOR THE VERY END
HAAH HAAH HAAH
YEAH

PCHINK!
AND THAT BRINGS THE CHRISTMAS DANCE PARTY TO AN END! TAKE IT EASY!
PINK
PINK
PINK
PINK
PINK

UM... I WAS SO BUSY, I WASN'T ABLE TO GET YOU A PRESENT...
I'M SORRY.

THAT'S OK, THIS IS EN-OUGH...

OH, FUTABA! YOU MADE IT!

GOOD TIMING. HERE'S YOUR PRESENT
TAKE A LOOK

CHATTER!
BUZZ BUZZ
YOU DIDN'T BRING ONE, MISAKI?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ATE MY CAKE!
OH, THAT!
THAT WAS OUTSTANDING CUISINE, EVEN FOR MY BIG APPETITE.
HOW ABOUT IT, MISAKI? WANT TO BE MY WIFE?
YOU MUST BE JOKING!
HEY, IT'S A HAND-KNIT SWEATER!
DO YOU LIKE IT?
THANK YOU.
OH, WHAT'S THAT?

IT'S MY SEAT!
HEY!
NOISE
MMM
OUT COLD
SHE'S BEEN STAYING UP LATE MAKING THIS..

GUESS I'LL CARRY HER HOME
YEAH

担当編集　久島 薫氏

(Editor in Charge: Kaoru Kushima)

He became our tantosha (Editor in Charge) in 1996, and before that he was the tantosha for Kazushi Hagiwara* at Weekly Shonen Jump, so perhaps it can be said that he has it pretty rough regardless of what editorial department he ends up working at. Hopefully he'll have an easier time of it with the next artist he works with.

*translator's note: Kazushi Hagiwara is the manga artist who does "Bastard!" According to sources, Hagiwara-sensei is pretty bad about meeting deadlines and considers himself to be a slow artist

Mr. Aro is an expert smiler. His smile never leaves his face. For instance, even when he has to work all night, he doesn't get irritated or go on a natural high. Mr. Aro simply smiles. This goes to show how well he works under pressure. So when I'm waiting on material from Studio Paranoia, (even though I get impatient) I feel a strange sense of relief.

Yes, it's really quite mysterious. Even when we're in desperate, heart-pounding situations, Mr. Aro and I have beaming faces... These become "smile and smile back" occasions.

As I've been writing this, I suddenly realized something. Come to think of it, I've never seen Mr. Aro with any facial expression but a smile... I get it, so in other words his expression and emotions are in a state of "synchronized motion." I guess that smile has always functioned and will always continue to function as a constant, fixed machine.

Sensei, I hope... I hope you also keep yourself synchronized with finishing up your work and getting it to me. Right now it's like we're inside Space Mountain. We're in the dark, and things keep slowing down and speeding up suddenly. It might seem kind of scary to people outside if they were to see us riding like that, smiling peacefully the whole time... Anyway, I will help you as best as I can, so all you readers out there please look forward to what Mr. Aro produces next.

RUMBLE
RUMBLE!

BUBBLE
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
BUBBLE

FWSSH!

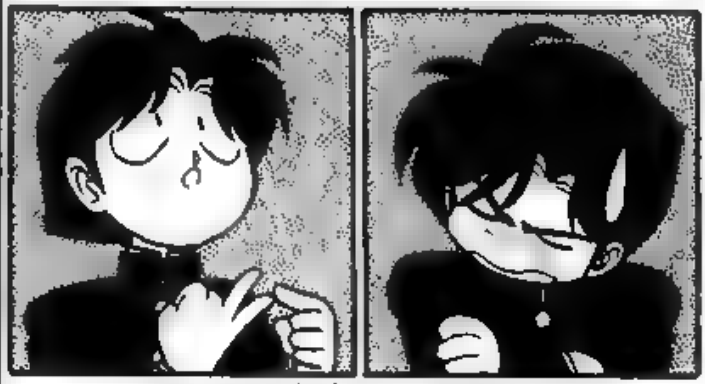
EHEH...
EHEH HEH HEH HEH HEH...

STIR
STIR
PLOOP!
.....
LIGHT
PERFEC-
TION...!
IT'S
PERFECT
!!!
THAT'S
IT!!
11 12 13 14 15 16 17
18 19 20 21 22 23 24
28 29
GO
ON THE
14TH, HE
WILL BE
MINE!!
14
GONG!
HOOOOO,
HO HO HO
HO HO!!!

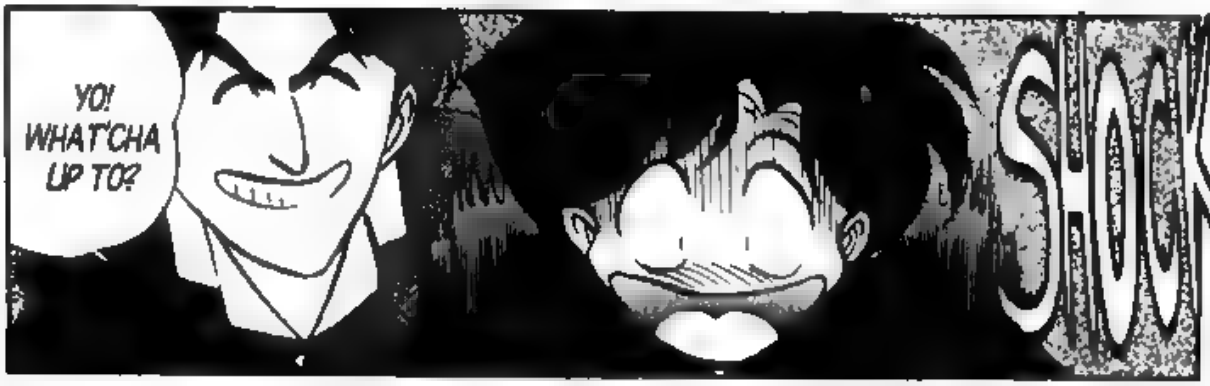
Futaba-kun burns...!?

ふたば君もえつきの巻(まき)!?

*TRANSLATOR'S NOTE ON VALENTINE'S DAY, JAPANESE WOMEN TRADITIONALLY GIVE CHOCOLATE TO THEIR MALE CO-WORKERS, BOSSES, FRIENDS, FAMILY MEMBERS AND SO ON. CHOCOLATE GIVEN TO MEN WHO WOMEN DON'T FEEL SPECIAL LOVE FOR IS CALLED "GIRI (OBLIGATION)-CHOCO (CHOCOLATE)." CHOCOLATE GIVEN TO CO-WORKERS AND BOSSES IS USUALLY CONSIDERED TO BE "OBLIGATION CHOCOLATE."



NOTEPAD: SCHOOL (TOP); TV STUDIO STAFF (BOTTOM)



N..N-N-NOTHING AT ALL

I'M JUST COUNTING UP CHOCO-LATE...

COUNTING UP CHOCO-LATE!?

DO YOU EXPECT TO GET THAT MUCH, SHIMERU!!?

YOU BASTARD!! SINCE WHEN ARE YOU THAT POPULAR!?

DING!

DING!

OWWW! THAT'S NOT WHAT IT MEANS!!

DING!

OH, THE SORROW!! TO THINK THAT THERE WAS SUCH A ONE IN OUR MIDST!

LET THE SOUND OF OUR LAMENTATIONS BE HEARD IN THE HEAVENS!

WOOO

WHAT!?

FOR MERELY ¥1000, YOU CAN RECEIVE HOMEMADE CHOCOLATE FOR VALENTINE'S DAY HANDCRAFTED WITH SINCERITY ♡

SECRECY IS GUARANTEED! IT WILL BE INSIDE YOUR DESKS THAT DAY AND NO ONE WILL KNOW!

DON'T BE STUPID! ALL THAT JUST FOR CHOCOLATE?!

--GRD

YOU CAN ALWAYS PAY LATER ♪

URK...

DONG!

KANJI MASCULINITY!

YOU CAN PLACE YOUR APPLICATION FORM IN MY FOOT LOCKER OR SLIP IT STEALTHILY INTO MY DESK

WHAT ABOUT YOU, FUTABA?

I'M FINE, THANKS.

THAT'S TRUE, YOU'RE GETTING SOME ALREADY ♡

SO YOU SHOULD SCHEDULE YOUR DENTIST APPOINTMENT NOW

YEAH... GUESS SO, HUH?

IN THAT GIRL'S MIND, AFFECTION AND SWEETNESS ARE DIRECTLY PROPORTIONAL

IF WE'RE NOT CAREFUL, IT MIGHT BE THE SWEETEST THING MANKIND HAS EVER TASTED!

AHAHA!!

BLUB...

BLUBBLUB

WELL, IF YOU DATE M SAKI, I GUESS YOU HAVE TO BE PREPARED FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT

ST-STOP SCARING ME!

WHAT ARE YOU TWO TALKING ABOUT?

SHAZAM!

NO-NOTHING AT ALL!

YEAH, IT'S NOTHING, MISAKI!!

G'MORN ING.

ARE YOU OK!?

YEAH! YOU LOOK SICK!

NOOOO, MAYBE DID NOT SLEEP ENOUGH. I'VE BEEN UP LATE...

Blush!

FOR DAYS TRYING TO MAKE THE PERFECT CHOCOLATE.

C...COULD THIS REALLY BE THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA...!?

NO, IT MIGHT NEED TO BE USED AS AN EDIBLE MURDER WEAPON BEFORE THAT HAPPENS...!

I'LL SEE TO IT THAT ON THE 14TH EVERYONE SAYS YOURS TASTES THE BEST!

♡

MM-HMM HMHMMMM. FUTABA-KUN.

♡♪

HUH!? YES!?

HEE-HAW!! ZOINKS!

GOOD GR.EF..

THAT MEANS YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO EAT SOME IN PUBLIC.

♪ 3000~.

SHE MIGHT AS WELL HAVE GIVEN YOU THE DEATH PENALTY

KKKK! DAD NNNN!

GAHAHAHAAH!

← FUTABA-KUN

WHAT'S WRONG, FUTABA? WORRIED ABOUT HOW MUCH GIRI CHOCOLATE YOU HAVE TO GIVE?

JUST BUY A WHOLE BUNCH OF IT AND GIVE IT OUT AS YOU SEE FIT.

I WANT TO GIVE SOME TO AS MANY PEOPLE AT WORK AS I CAN, TOO...

STILL, I KNOW HOW IT FEELS TO RECEIVE IT, SO I'M OVERANALYZING IT

I WONDER HOW I SHOULD LOOK WHEN I GIVE IT OUT...?

IS IT REALLY OK FOR ME TO GIVE ANY OUT?

THIS IS THE DAY WHEN GIRLS GIVE CHOCOLATE TO GUYS THEY LIKE AND CONFESS THEIR FEELINGS.

LISTEN UP! THAT'S ALL THE CRUELTY YOU'RE ALLOWED!

.....

HUH?

RUB!

WHAT ARE YOU FRETTING ABOUT, FUTABA?

LET ME SHOW YOU HOW I GIVE OUT CHOCOLATE.

FEBRUARY 14TH

HERE YOU GO ♪

FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK. ♡

HUH, FOR ME, TOO!?

YEAHHH, I GOT SOME, TOO!

HEY! THIS IS HAND-MADE!

HEY, THANKS, "FUTABA-CHAN" I'LL TREAT YOU TO YAKINIKU ON WHITE DAY*! ♡

AND HERE'S ONE FOR THE PRODUCER

*TRANSLATOR'S NOTE. YAKINIKU IS GRILLED MEAT COOKED ON A GRIDDLE OFTEN OVER A CHARCOAL OR GAS OVEN, AND EATEN WITH VEGETABLES COOKED THE SAME WAY. THERE ARE MANY SPECIALTY YAKINIKU RESTAURANTS AND MOST OF THEM RESEMBLE KOREAN-STYLE BARBECUE ESTABLISHMENTS

TOO BAD YOU DON'T GIVE THIS OUT LIKE KAHORU DOES, EH?

UM... SORRY, I'M NOT THAT BRAVE...

WHAT DOES HE MEAN, "LIKE KAHORU DOES?"

MPH...

WELL?

THIS WAY, I CAN MAKE EVERYONE HAPPY WITH JUST ONE LOW-PRICED BAG. ♪

A CHOCO-BALL!?

*TRANSLATOR'S NOTE CHOCOBALLS ARE SOMETHING LIKE WHOPPERS CHOCOLATE ON THE OUTSIDE AND A COOKIE TYPE SNACK ON THE INSIDE ON BAG "LOW PRICED!" CHOCOLATE"

I SEE, MOUTH-TO-MOUTH!

HOW FITTING FOR A HIT ACTRESS!!

AND BEST OF ALL, IT'S VERY ECONOMICAL ♡

GRASP

FIGURES..

LET ME SAY AHEAD OF TIME THAT I WON'T DO MOUTH-TO-MOUTH DELIVERY.

I KNOW!

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF WASTING THE CHOCOLATE I MADE THIS TIME AROUND.

SPEAKING OF WHICH...

YOU REALLY BAILED ME OUT BY MAKING ALL THAT FOR ME.

IT'S A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR MAKING YOU MORE POPULAR, YOU KNOW!

BUT TO BE HONEST, I GOT A LOT MORE REQUESTS FOR THIS STUFF THAN I EXPECTED

SO I MADE MORE THAN I NEEDED, TO SAVE MONEY IN THE LONG RUN.

CHOCOLATE BARS, DRIED FRUIT, AND COOKIES FOR INGREDIENTS...

AND THEN WRAPPING MATERIALS... IT REQUIRED SOME TIME BUT IT MEANT A BIG PROFIT.

CHOCOBALLS IN A TAKOYAKI* TIN. ♡

***TRANSLATOR'S NOTE.** TAKOYAKI ARE FRIED DOUGHY BALLS FILLED WITH OCTOPUS MEAT. THEY'RE COOKED IN WHAT LOOK LIKE SMALL, IRON MUFFIN TINS.

STRANGERS THANKING ME AND PROFIT TO BOOT!

VALENTINE'S DAY IS FINE BY ME!!

HAHAHA!

UH OH, WE'D BETTER GET GOING TO SCHOOL.

WE MIGHT BE MARKED ABSENT INSTEAD OF LATE!

WILL YOU GIVE OLT ANY CHOCOLATE AT SCHOOL, NEGIRI?

DON'T WORRY. YESTERDAY, I PUT SOME IN ALL MY CLIENTS' DESKS

ANY CHOCOLATE I GIVE OUT NOW WILL BE FROM THE HEART ♡

.....

THEN WHO'S THE LUCKY GUY?

WELL NOW..

GOOD QUESTION.

"KANJI: "KIYA!!" (NOTE: THIS IS A TYPICAL GIRLY SQUEE.).

THIS IS A SOCIAL OBLIGATION! GIRI CHOCOLATE, GOT IT?

DON'T MISUNDERSTAND ME!

Sob! Sob! Sob! Sob!

IT'S NOT FAIR!!

WOMEN HAVE A DAY FOR CONFESSING THEIR FEELINGS BUT THERE'S NO DAY FOR MEN TO AFFIRM THEIR FRIENDSHIP WITH EACH OTHER!

I CAN'T UNDER-STAND WHY!

AHH... SHIME-RU!!

OH!

FUTABA-KUN!

HRK..

M.SAKI-CHAN!

HERE"

DADADADA

SHE MIGHT AS WELL HAVE GIVEN YOU THE DEATH PENALTY

...DON'T REMIND ME.

HUH?

MISAKI-CHAN!!

HUH..

WHOA!

KA-BOOM!

WHAT A PHENOMENON! THE ABNORMALLY HIGH CALORIC CONTENT OF THE CHOCOLATE IS CAUSING IT TO SPONTANEOUSLY COMBUST!!

LOOK OUT!!
AGAIN

AH!

MR. SABU-YAMA!

HEADS UP!
OH!

CHOCO-LATE!?

SHIMERU'S GIVING ME CHOCO-LATE!!!
YOU UNDER-STAND!

I WORKED SO HARD ON IT...
BURA!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MISAKI?
MY CHOCO-LATE...
MISAKI-CHAN!
FUTABA.. CHAN!?

WILL YOU ACCEPT THIS?
THIS ONE IS FROM THE HEART
...SURE.

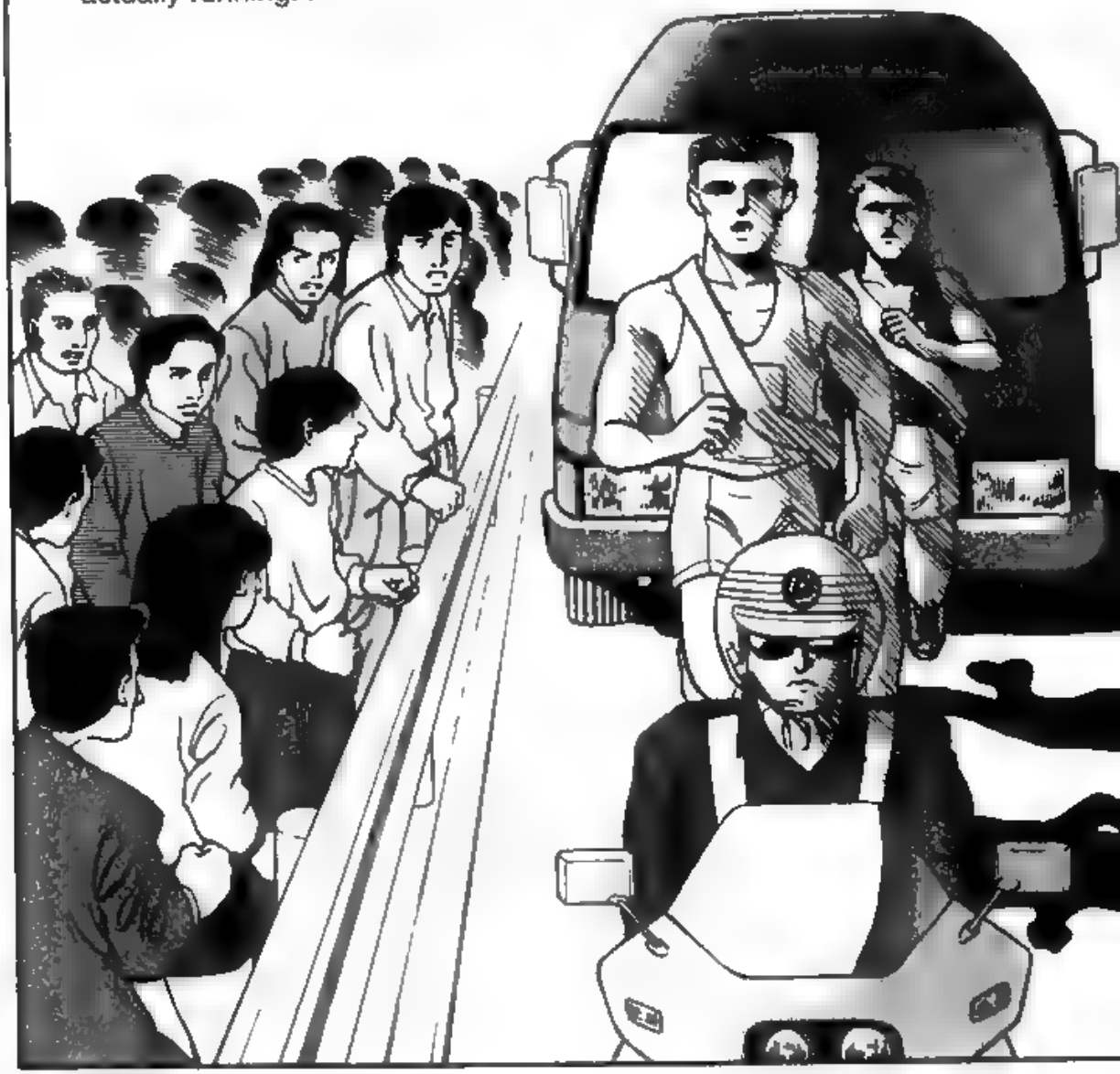
NEE NER!
NEE NER!
NEE NER!
I'M ON FIRE AHH!!

Whenever I watch a broadcast of something like a marathon or long distance relay race, I always get worried about something.

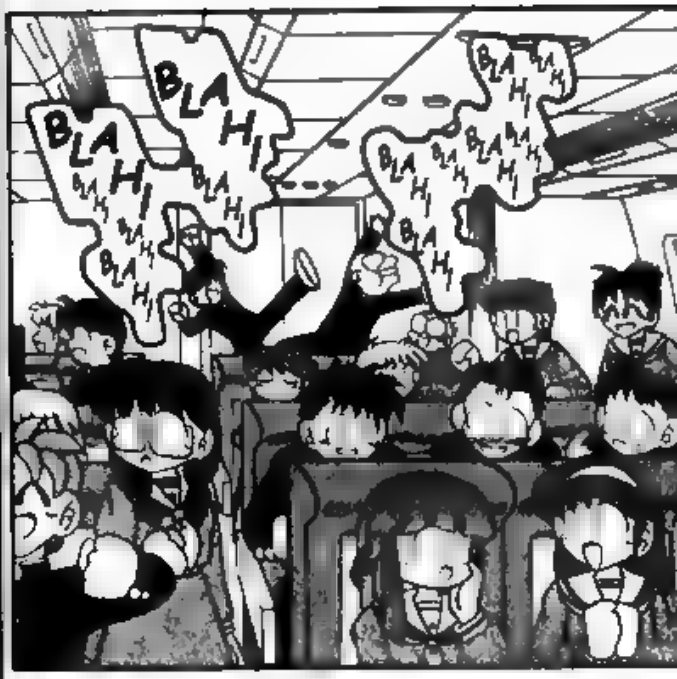
The motorcycle police who guide the runners, the broadcasters and team cars that follow along, and then members of the general public running along next to the course...

Because they abuse their cardiopulmonary systems over long periods of time due to the exhaust fumes from slow moving cars all around them (in other words there are large amounts of harmful substances from incomplete combustion) that ordinarily disseminate freely, it doesn't seem like these sports can be good for the runners' health.

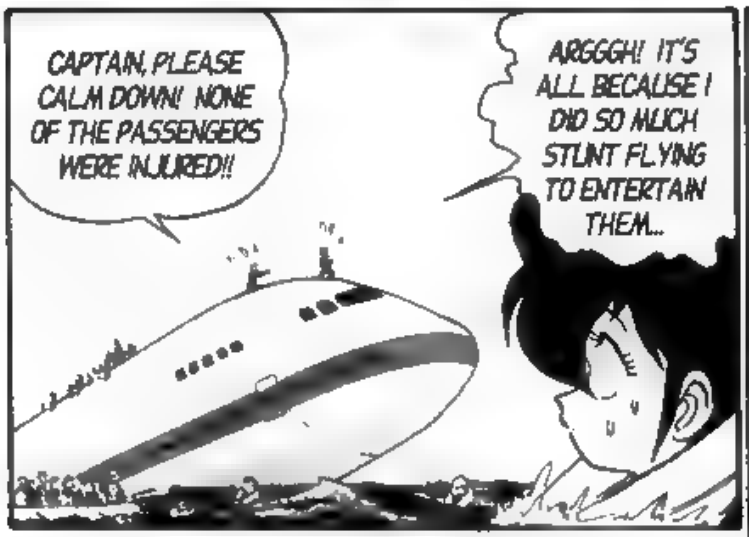
It's said that the Japanese are a people who love watching marathons. There is always steady progress towards producing high efficiency sports shoes that are engineered for athletes, but I have a feeling that people are overly indifferent towards the health of those athletes when they're actually running. .



HIROAKI!!


BLAH!
BLAH!
BLAH!
BLAH!
BLAH!
BLAH!

TODAY, WE'RE ON OUR CLASS TRIP.
THIS SURE IS FUN.
I'VE GOT A GOOD FEELING ABOUT IT.


CAPTAIN, PLEASE CALM DOWN! NONE OF THE PASSENGERS WERE INJURED!!
ARGGGH! IT'S ALL BECAUSE I DID SO MUCH STUNT FLYING TO ENTERTAIN THEM...

TO BE CONTINUED...

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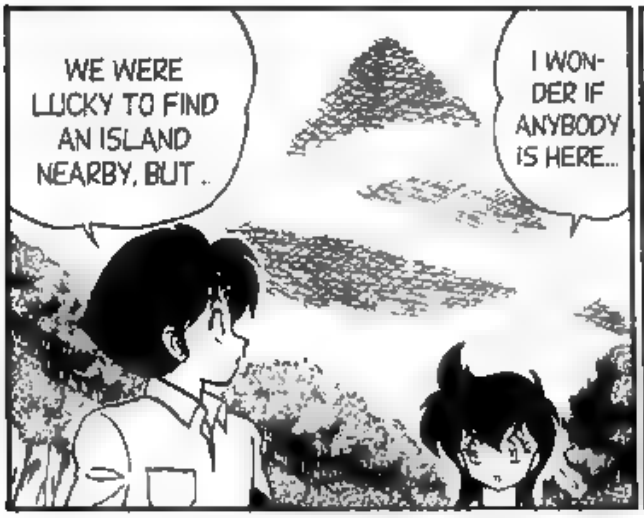
FUTABA KUN
CHANGE

Futaba-kun, Bridegroom or Bride...?!

FWISSH!


WE WERE LUCKY TO FIND AN ISLAND NEARBY, BUT..
I WONDER IF ANYBODY IS HERE...

WHERE ARE WE!?

WHAT'S WRONG, CAPTAIN?
IT'S SO STRANGE! I WAS FLYING ON COURSE TODAY...

AND THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY ISLANDS AROUND HERE!

A NONEXISTENT ISLAND!?

SHIMERU 02.10.13

THAT'S CRAZY!

WHAT'S SO CRAZY ABOUT IT?

IT FLOATS ALONG ON OCEAN CURRENTS.

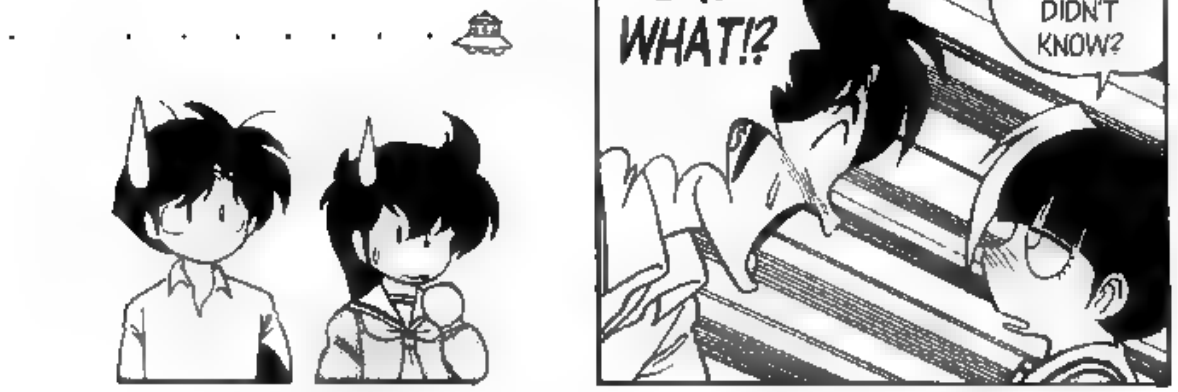
SO IT'S SIMPLY NOT ON ANY MAPS.

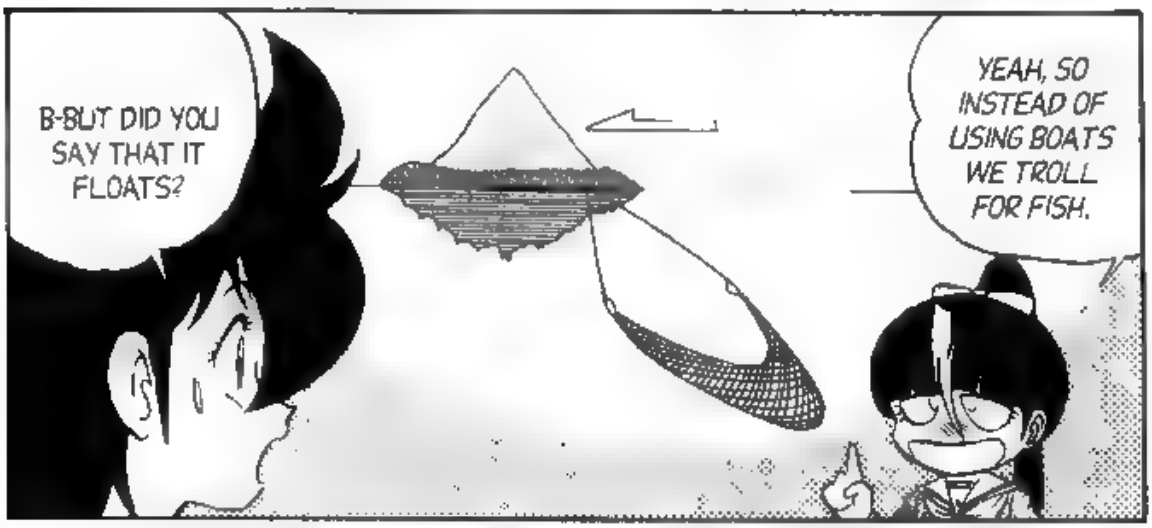
DO YOU KNOW THIS PLACE, KURONO!?

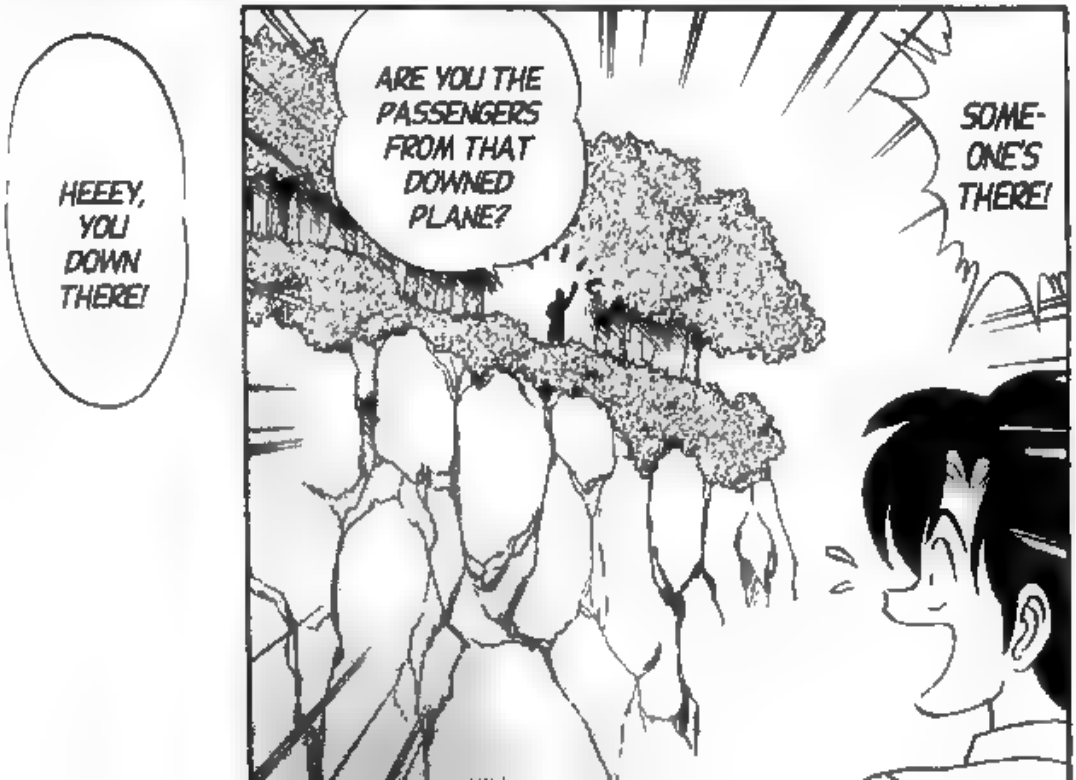
OF COURSE I DO...

THIS IS SHIMERU ISLAND, WHERE I GREW UP.

ZU! ZU! ZU! ZU! ZU!


SAY WHAT!?
SERIOUSLY? YOU MEAN YOU REALLY DIDN'T KNOW?


B-BUT DID YOU SAY THAT IT FLOATS?
YEAH, SO INSTEAD OF USING BOATS WE TROLL FOR FISH.


HEEEY, YOU DOWN THERE!
ARE YOU THE PASSENGERS FROM THAT DOWNED PLANE?
SOME-ONE'S THERE!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
IS ANYONE INJURED OR MISSING?
ZU! ZU!
OH, A POLICE OFFICER! GOOD TIMING!
WHAT?
THE... THE HEAD FAMILY'S DAUGHTER!!
BOZZ

A-ARE YOU INJURED AT ALL!?
I'M JUST KIND OF SOAKED
I'LL INFORM YOUR FAMILY RIGHT AWAY!
PLEASE DO
HE SHE CHANGED
SURE DID

HMM...? WHAT'S WITH YOU TWO?

TH-THIS S REALLY WHERE YOU'RE FROM.
AND THAT PERSON'S BEHAVIOR TOWARDS KURIN WAS JUST LIKE.
..LIKE SHE'S A PRINCESS...

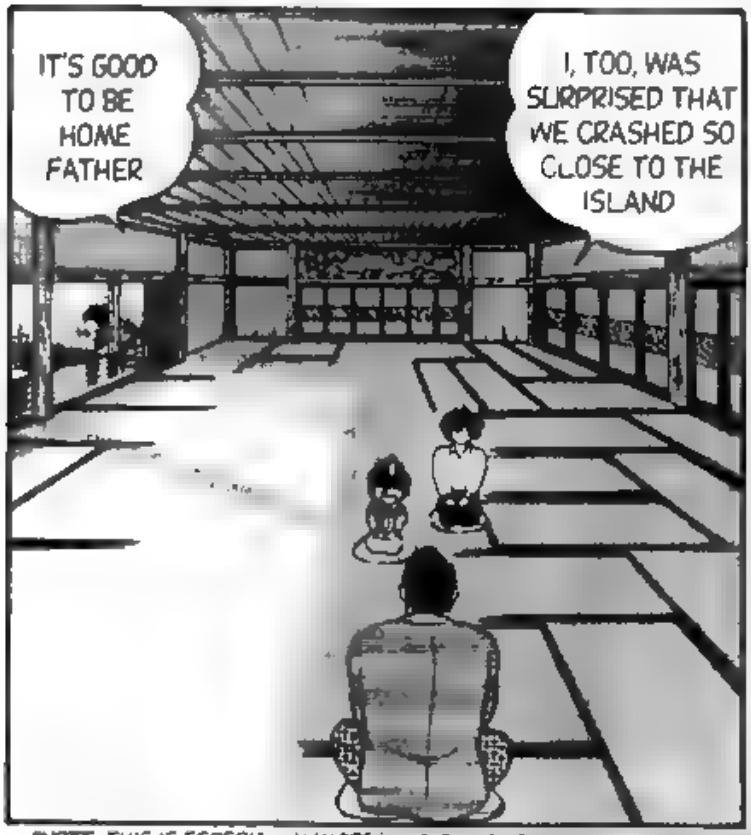
EVERYONE WHO LIVES HERE ARE MY RELATIVES.
AND I'M THE HEIRESS OF THE HEAD FAMILY...

THAT'S RIGHT!!
THIS COULD BE MY CHANCE!

SIGNS (LEFT TO RIGHT): LIQUOR· KAM YA LIQUORS, CIGARETTES

I'M THE HEIRESS OF THE HEAD FAMILY. IN OTHER WORDS, OF THIS WHOLE ISLAND!
THEN WHY IS EVERYONE RUSHING TO CLOSE UP SHOP?
GACHA GACHA GACHA
BATA! BATA!
GARARA!
THEY'RE PUTTING THEIR MERCHANDISE AWAY OVER THERE, TOO
URM..
WHA.. WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?
I'M A CELEBRITY HERE.
I'LL PROVE IT.
HEY, YOU FROM THE RAMEN SHOP! HOW ARE YA?
ON CONTAINER MARURA!
SIGN OVER BIN ICE CREAM
P-PLEASE FORGIVE ME!!
I'LL GO BANKRUPT IF I HAVE TO FEED BOTH YOU AND ALL THESE PEOPLE, MISS KURIN!

I WONDERED ABOUT THIS WHEN WE FIRST MET...
YOU'VE NEVER ACTUALLY PAID FOR ANYTHING, HAVE YOU?
URK...
DAMN THAT MISAKI! EMBARRASSING ME IN PUBLIC!
I'LL SHOW HER!
WHAT'S THE HOLD UP? HURRY AND LEAD THEM TO THE VILLAGE OFFICE!
I KNOW, I KNOW!
AFTER THE OFFICE, WE'LL GO SEE THE VILLAGE CHIEF AT MY HOUSE.
TROMP!
IT'S THE ONLY PLACE HERE THAT CAN HANDLE THIS MANY PEOPLE.
TROMP!
THANK GOODNESS...
VILLAGE CHIEF AND SHIMERU HEAD FAMILY



*NOTE. THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPRES[illegible] ARE QUITE SMALL

TAPESTRY (PARTIALLY OBSCURED): "FIGHTING SPIRIT"
KU-KURIN!! WHAT DO YOU MEAN, ALL OF A SUDDEN!?
HOOO! HO HO HO HO! I MAKE THE DECISIONS ON THIS ISLAND
KURIN !!!
NO! NO!! NO WEDDINGS!
FLAPPA!
FLAPPA!
FLAPPA!
FLAPPA!
FLAPPA!
FLAPPA!
FLAPPA!
FLAPPA!
FLAPPA!

HOW COULD YOU!? ARE YOU GONNA GET MARRIED AND LEAVE ME ALL ALONE!?
AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO AGREED TO THE ENGAGEMENT, FATHER?

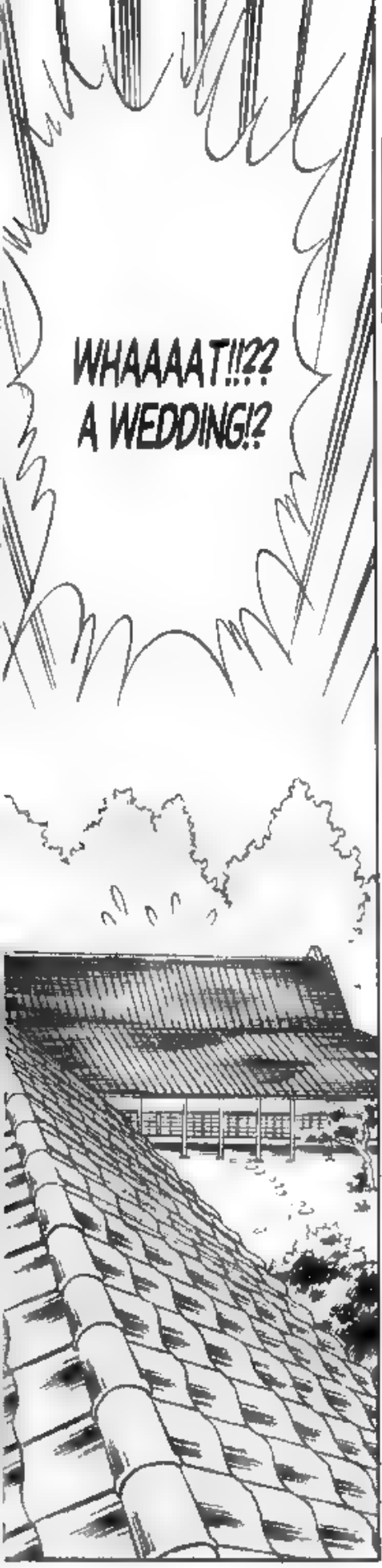
BUT, BUT..

STOP MAKING THIS DIFFICULT !!!

BUT, BUT HONEY..
NO BUTS!
MOTHER!

FUTABA, I PRESUME
YE... YES!
ARE YOU PREPARED TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE HEAD FAMILY?
YOU MUST SOON LEARN OUR CUSTOMS AND ETIQUETTE..
W-WAIT A MINUTE! KURIN ONLY BROUGHT UP MARRIAGE JUST NOW!
I STILL HAVE NOT..
!
FUTABA, DO YOU INTEND TO BRING DISGRACE UPON KURIN'S NAME?
N-NO! I JUST DON'T WANT WANT THIS TO BE DECIDED FOR ME...
HEY!
EH?
BOW!

KIYA!!
RW-OOMF!
GYA!
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS KURIN?
YOU WERE TO GO TO THE MAINLAND TO DISCIPLINE HIM.
WHY WOULD YOU LET A CHILD FROM A BRANCH FAMILY SPEAK THAT WAY!?
YES... MA'AM...
SNIFF
SO THAT'S IT...


WHAAAAT!!?? A WEDDING!?

A SHIP WILL ARRIVE TOMORROW NIGHT TO TRANSPORT ALL OF YOU.
IN THE MEANTIME WE WILL CELEBRATE THE MARRIAGE OF KURON AND FUTABA SHIMERU.

FU-FUTABA... SHIMERU!? IS THIS TRUE!?
I...I HADN'T HEARD SUCH A THING!

WOBBE WOBBE

CHATTER!
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
KURIN... YOU PLANNED THIS!
MURMUR
THE CEREMONY IS TOMORROW AT NOON.
EVERYONE ON THE ISLAND IS INVITED
SPLASH!
SPLASH!
FUTABA-KUN...

SIGN MARUKO SNACK BAR
WAHHH! SHIMERU!!
すなっく
YOU CALL-ED?
WHO ARE YOU? MY BELOVED SHIMERU IS ABOUT TO GET MARRIED
EVERYONE ON THIS ISLAND IS NAMED SHIMERU.
LEAVE ME ALONE DON'T CARE FOR WOMEN!
THEN HOW ABOUT IF I'M A MAN?
EH?
I'LL KEEP YOU COMPANY IF IT WILL HELP
AIIEEEE!!!

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE BUT KURIN IS FOND OF YOU.
SHE HAD NEVER DONE HOUSEWORK, AND YET I HEAR SHE EVEN MADE YOU A LUNCH.
THAT SHE WOULD DO SUCH A THING ON HER OWN.
..SHOCKS EVEN ME.
I ASK YOU TO BE KIND TO HER.
BOW
THEN STOP TREATING ME LIKE THIS!
THAT IS A DIFFERENT MATTER ENTIRELY
PLEASE ENDURE IT UNTIL TOMORROW'S CEREMONY

HEY, DID YOU KNOW?
ABOUT WHAT?
ABOUT THE PEOPLE ON THIS ISLAND CHANGING THEIR GENDERS
ARE YOU SERIOUS!?
OH, I SAW THAT!
SOME OTHERS SAW IT HAPPEN, TOO!
CHATTER! CHATTER!
I HAVEN'T SEEN MISAKI SINCE LAST NIGHT. WHAT'S SHE UP TO?
SILENCE! THE BRIDE AND GROOM ARE ENTERING.
CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP!
SLIP...
AH!
AH!
AHHH!

F-FUTABA SHIMERU AND FUTABA-CHAN...
THEY HAVE THE SAME NAME BECAUSE THEY'RE THE SAME PERSON!!

BAOOM
SLIT!
WAH, WHAT IN-!?
COUGH! COUGH!
WHO BROUGHT EXPLOSIVES WITH THEM!?
HACK!
COUGH! COUGH!
HACK!
HEY! THE BRIDE AND GROOM ARE GONE!!

MI-
MISAKI-
CHAN!!
LET'S RUN
FOR IT,
FUTABA-
KUN!!

While *Futaba-kun Change!* was being published, I finally got hooked on video games. Back when Nintendo had just become famous, I told the people around me that I would absolutely never try my hand at these games. Naturally, this was before I had ever actually seen any of them.

During work, assistants with too much free time on their hands started bringing games in. I once caught a glimpse of one out of the corner of my eye and before I knew it I picked up a pad and started playing.

Now the manuscripts are late, and I'm reaping what I sowed, so to speak, since I ended up giving my assistants free time. People tell me I've become addicted.

Now, I have a new forbidden toy that keeps me on the run, a computer. To be honest, if it takes up any more of my time, it will have a serious effect on my livelihood as an artist.

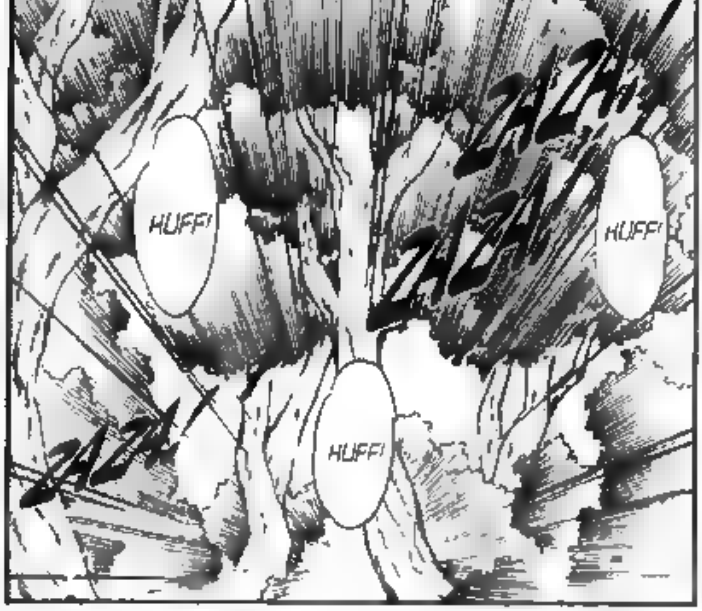
However, whenever I go to see my mentor Mr. Osamu Akimoto, he keeps tempting me by saying he's going to send me e-mail so I'd better go online and read it. So now I wonder how much time I'll end up spending on the Internet.

Futaba-kun, Encounter With the Unknown?!

I HAVE TRAVELED FOR A LONG TIME.
BECAUSE OF THIS, I'VE BEEN TO MANY DIFFERENT STARS.
BUT ONE DAY, THERE WAS THIS LITTLE ACCIDENT
TO BE HONEST, IT WAS PRETTY BAD. AND TO MAKE IT WORSE, I WAS IN SOME REMOTE SPOT WHERE NO ONE COULD REACH ME.
WE..L, THERE WAS ONE PLANET WHERE I COULD MAKE AN EMERGENCY LANDING, SO THE CLOUD HAD A SILVER LINING.
IN ANY CASE, I HAD TO WAIT THERE UNTIL I COULD MOVE BY MY OWN POWER...
BUT YOU KNOW, I NO LONGER KNOW HOW LONG I'VE BEEN WAITING...

AND SO, ON SHIMERU ISLAND...
DONG!
LET'S RUN FOR IT, FUTABA-KUN!!

RIGHT!
HOW DARE THEY DISGRACE THE SHIMERU HEAD FAMILY! AFTER THEM!
THEY RAN TOWARDS THE MOUNTAIN!
COMB THE ENTIRE THING!
HMMM, SOMETIMES MISAKI'S PRETTY SCARY WITH WHAT SHE CAN DO.
CLANG! CLANG!
I NEVER THOUGHT SHE'D USE DYNAMITE TO SNATCH FUTABA-CHAN AWAY
CLANG! CLANG!
BUT WHAT WILL SHE DO NOW?
CLANG! CLANG!
SHE CAN'T ESCAPE FROM THIS ISLAND..


HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
ZAZAH!
ZAZAH!
ZAZAH!

ABOUT WHAT?
M-MISAKI! WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO!?

WE CAN'T RUN FOREVER ON SUCH A SMALL ISLAND
I KNOW THAT! JUST A LITTLE FARTHER..
WHERE ARE THEY!?
THIS WAY!

THERE!

BEHIND THIS SHRINE!

HAH...
HAH.
I...I'M IMPRESSED HOW DID YOU FIND THIS PLACE?
WHEN I WALKED AROUND THE ISLAND LAST NIGHT
AFTER QUITTING THE SWIM TEAM, I STARTED GAINING WEIGHT
ACTUALLY I'VE BEEN JOGGING 20 TO 30 KM EVERY NIGHT
SO THAT'S HOW SHE CAN EAT SUCH SWEET FOODS EVERY DAY
THERE'S A SHIP COMING TO PICK US ALL UP TONIGHT SO WE SHOULD BE OKAY HIDING UNTIL THEN
WE WERE ON A CLASS TRIP SO THEY SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO KEEP US HERE.
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU HAD IN MIND, HUH?
GJJ...
EEK!!

KURIN!! HOW'D YOU GET HERE!?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN HOW... I WAS HOLDING ONTO THIS CHAIN THE WHOLE TIME
OH...

IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THE VILLAGERS WILL SOON FIND YOU IF YOU TRY HIDING IN THIS CAVE! JUST GIVE UP GRACEFULLY
HEEEEY, IN HERE-

BOOP!

I DIDN'T PLAN ON BRINGING YOU ALONG AS WELL.
MI-MISAKI.. YOU'RE GETTING PRETTY EXTREME...

A MAIDEN IN LOVE WILL RISK HER LIFE! AND SO...
TROMP!
TROMP!

DID THAT VOICE COME FROM AROUND HERE?
OH YEAH, WE HAVEN'T CHECKED THE SHRINE
THEY HEARD HER!!
N...N THAT CASE..!
DIE WITH ME, FUTABA-KUN!!
WHA!?
IF YOU'RE BEING FORCED INTO MARRIAGE, LET'S DO THIS!!
C-CALM DOWN, MISAKI!!
PSSSHV!
ARE YOU SAYING YOU DON'T WANT TO BE WITH ME!?
WE... WE'RE GOING HOME! I PROMISE!!
PR PR!!
ROGER! WE WILL NOW RETURN HOME.
BAKASHI
HUH!?
TO BE CONTINUED!

IRONCAT
IRONCAT
May 2002
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FUTABA KUN
CHANGE

BUBBLE BUBBLE

GU GU GU GU GU GU GU GU

RUMBLE RUMBLE

IS IT AN EARTHQUAKE!?

SIRHC 02.10.24

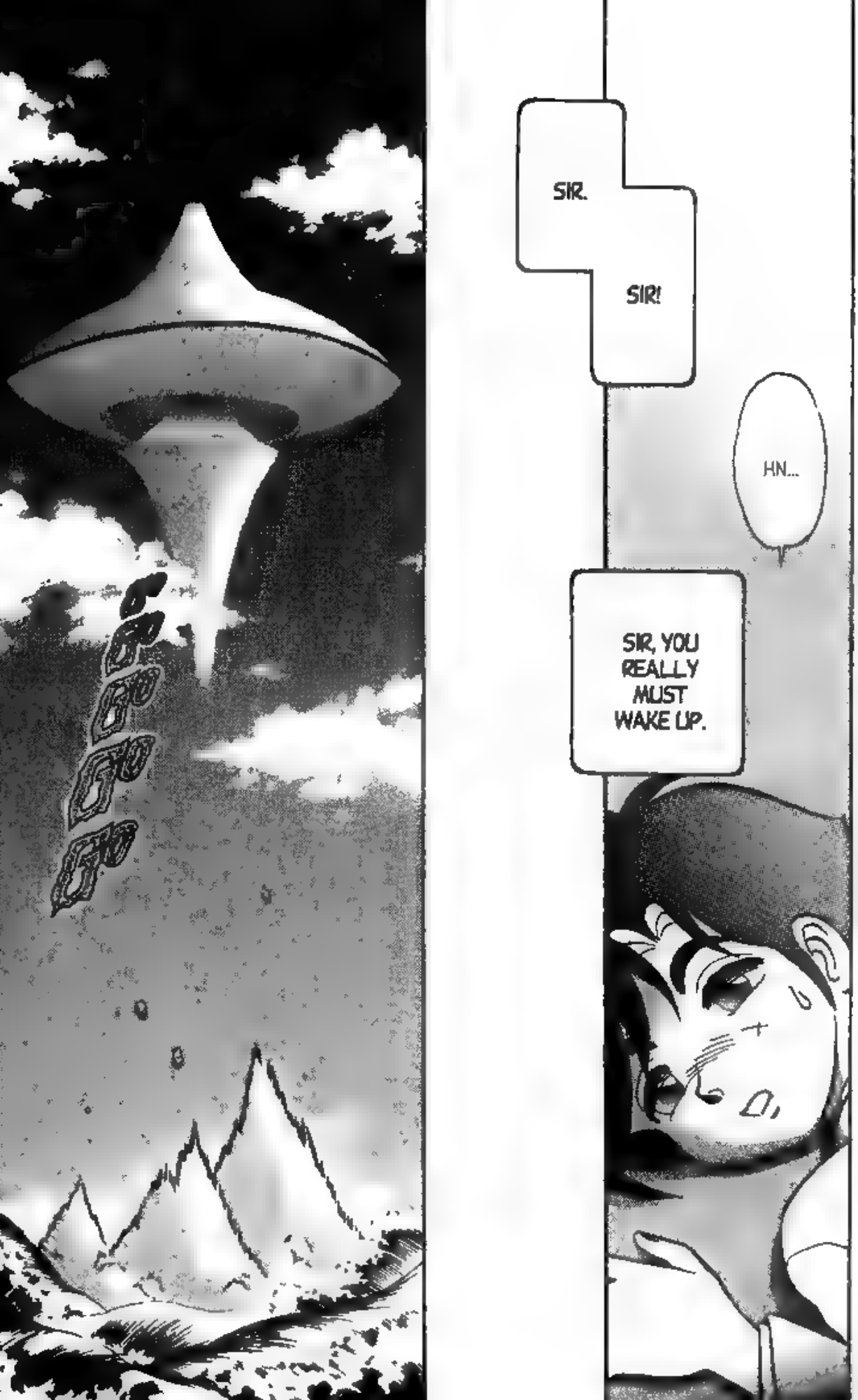
THAT'S CRAZY!! THIS IS A FLOATING ISLAND!!

IT'S A BIG ONE! RUN FOR IT!!

WAHH!

KYA!

CHOMP!


SIR.
SIR!
HN...
SIR, YOU REALLY MUST WAKE UP.

!
WH-WHERE AM I!?
YOU ARE INSIDE ME.
I SWEAR, YOU REALLY MADE ME WAIT A LONG TIME!
IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE ANYBODY SAID THEY WANTED TO GO HOME...
WH-WHO ARE YOU!? WHAT'S GOING ON?!
OH, MY APOLOGIES. I STILL HAVE NOT INTRODUCED MYSELF.
I AM THE SPACESHIP YOU ARE CURRENTLY RIDING IN.
S... SPACE-SHIP!?

W-WAIT A MINUTE...
WE WERE INSIDE A CAVE ON SHIMERU ISLAND.
AH! WHERE ARE MISAKI AND KURIN!?
THE TWO WHO WERE WITH YOU?
THEY ARE IN ANOTHER ROOM.
WHERE!? ARE THEY SAFE!?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO LISTEN TO MY STORY FIRST?
STORY!? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO THEM!?
NOT REALLY, NO.
THEN LET ME SEE THEM NOW!
YES, BUT FIRST MY STORY...
WHAT ARE YOU HIDING!? IF NOTHING'S WRONG THEN I SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE THEM NOW!!
TELL ME! WHAT'S HAPPENED!?
ALL RIGHT! I UNDERSTAND!!
KA-
KHOOM!
BUT YOU KNOW, THESE TWO...

WHY DON'T YOU JUST GIVE IT UP!? HOW DARE YOU RUIN SUCH A FORMAL CEREMONY!?
OF COURSE I'M GOING TO RUIN A WEDDING WHERE SOMEONE'S BEING FORCED INTO MARRIAGE WITHOUT CONSENT!!
THEY'RE EVEN LESS INTERESTED IN HEARING MY STORY THAN YOU, SIR.
.....
CLANK! CLANK!
CLANK! CLANK!
AH!
FUTABA! WE MUST RETURN AND CONTINUE THE CEREMONY!
ZOOM!
FUTABA! NOW YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE! EITHER KURIN DIES OR WE DIE!
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD LET THE THREE OF US OUTSIDE FIRST? EVERYONE MUST BE WORRIED..
I CANNOT DO THAT.
WHY NOT?
IT'S BECAUSE OF THE ORDER YOU GAVE ME.
WE ARE CURRENTLY IN OUTER SPACE.

OUTER SPACE !?
...THEN THAT MEANS WE CAN'T CHANGE OUR COURSE UNTIL WE ARRIVE AT THE ORIGINALLY PROGRAMMED DESTINATION.
THAT IS CORRECT.
THIS PROGRAM WAS ALREADY INPUT WHEN I MADE THE EMERGENCY LANDING ON THAT PLANET SO I CANNOT ALTER IT.
THIS IS AWFUL... SO WE CAN'T GO BACK HOME YET
THERE'S NOTHING TERRIBLE ABOUT THIS. YOU ARE RETURNING TO YOUR HOME WORLD.
I'D LIKE YOU TO EXPLAIN THAT IN A BIT MORE DETAIL.

I SUFFERED AN ACCIDENT IN THIS REGION OF SPACE, ONE WHICH CAUSED GREAT DAMAGE.
BUT HEY, I FIGURED I COULD DEAL WITH IT AND MADE AN EMERGENCY LANDING ON THAT PLANET
IT WAS A BACKWARDS, UNCIVILIZED WORLD, BUT THAT WAS BEYOND MY CONTROL.
AT LEAST I WAS ABLE TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE TO MYSELF.
INSTEAD OF GYPSUM, I LAYERED ON EARTH AND SAND, THEN POSED AS AN ISLAND UNTIL THE ORDER TO RETURN HOME WAS GIVEN.
HOLD ON!
OUR ANCESTORS HAVE LIVED ON SHIMERL ISLAND FOR GENERA-TIONS!

I'M NOT SURPRISED IT'S BEEN FORGOTTEN. THIS HAPPENED ROUGHLY 12 TO 13,000 YEARS AGO.
12...12 TO 13,000 YEARS!?
WHY SO LONG...?
PROBABLY BECAUSE THE SELF-REPAIRS ALONE TOOK ABOUT 4,000 YEARS.
4,000 YEARS... NO WONDER THEY FORGOT
WHAT A DIM-W TTED SHIP!
IT WASN'T THAT. I WAS LACKING IN FACILITIES AND INGREDIENTS AND I COULDN'T MOVE.
THE REPAIRS WERE MADE USING ONLY MICRO-MACHINES AND THE MINISCULE AMOUNTS OF CHEMICAL ELEMENTS IN THE OCEAN WATER, SO IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT.
BUT ANYWAY, I'M RELIEVED THAT I CAN FINALLY RETURN HOME NOW.
YES! THAT'S IT!! THAT'S WHAT'S IMPORTANT HERE!
JA BA
POINT!
MISAKI! THIS DECIDES OUR DUEL!!
WHERE WE'RE GOING IS OUR HOME WORLD!

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU WILL BE THE ONLY ALIEN THERE!
AND YOU WILL BE POWERLESS TO STOP MY MARRIAGE TO FUTABA...
TH-THAT CAN'T BE!

WHAT MADE YOU THINK YOU'D BE PHYSICALLY ABLE TO MARRY FUTABA IN THE FIRST PLACE?

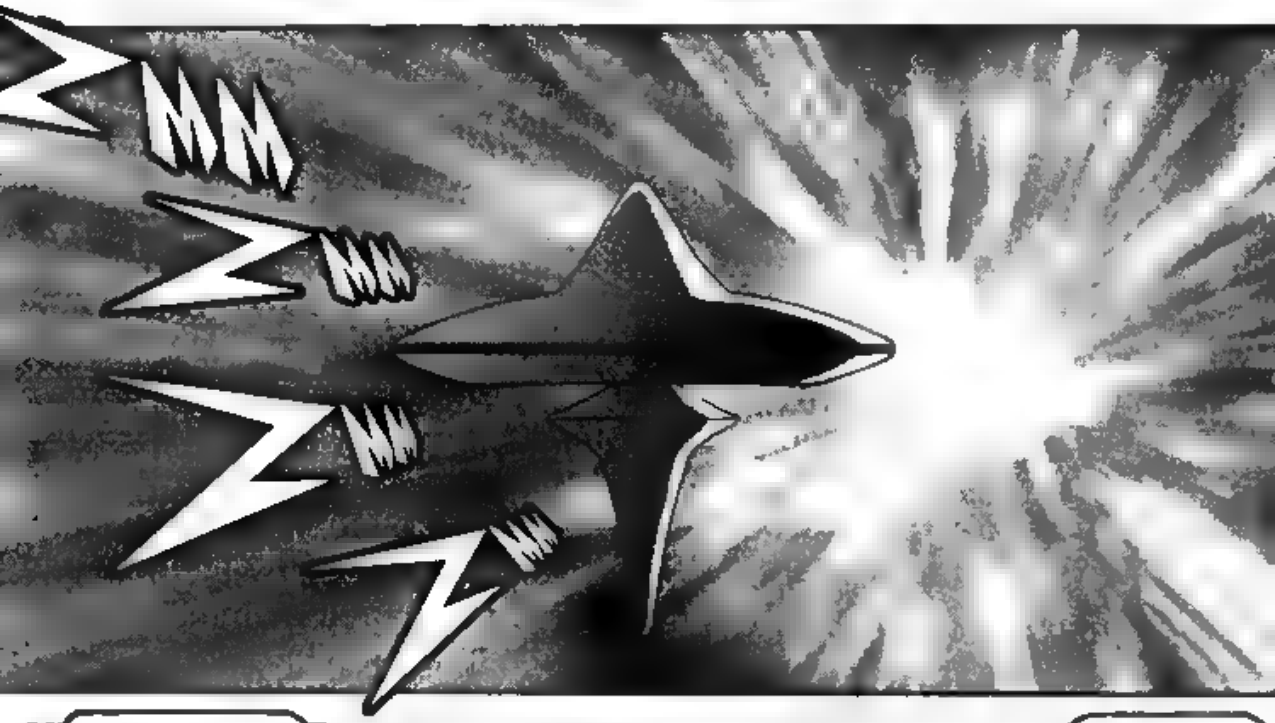
HE'S ALMOST ALWAYS A WOMAN WHEN HE'S WITH YOU!
WHA!?
DID YOU THINK YOU'D BE ABLE TO MARRY A WOMAN?

SOON THE ALIEN WILL HAVE NO MORE SAY IN THE MATTER.

DEFEAT...

FUTABA-KUN!!
Y-YES!?
AHHH!!

BLOOD TRANS-FUSION!!
GONG!
HUH!?
I JUST REMEM-BERED
MY BODY CHANGED INTO A MAN'S BECAUSE OF YOUR BLOOD!
OH, YEAH!
IF YOU TURN INTO A WOMAN THEN I'LL TURN INTO A MAN!
NO! THAT CAN'T BE TRUE...
THAT'S RIGHT, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
YOU CAN'T CHANGE SIMPLY WITH A BLOOD TRANSFUSION!
BUT I REALLY DID CHANGE!
RIGHT, FUTABA-KUN!?
UH, I'M SORRY ABOUT ALL THAT.



*TRANSLATOR'S NOTE. WHEN PRONOUNCED IN JAPANESE THE WORD "SHEMALE" SOUNDS VERY SIMILAR TO THE NAME "SHIMERU." SINCE OVER 10,000 YEARS HAD PASSED THE NAME WAS COULD BE INTEGRATED INTO JAPANESE SOCIETY AND EVENTUALLY BECAME KNOWN AS SHIMERU.

HER ABILITY TO CHANGE, DILUTED BY HUMAN BLOOD, WAS ACTIVATED TEMPORARILY BY FUTABA'S BLOOD.
N...NO...
YOU MAY FEEL FREE TO HAVE YOUR HORMONE SECRETION GLAND ACTIVATED ON THE SHEMALE WORLD.
YOU'D BE ABLE TO CHANGE JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.
IT SAID I COULD CHANGE, TOO, FUTABA!!
IT'S NOT FAIR!!!
WHY!? WHY IS IT LIKE THIS!?
WHY IS IT THAT MISAKI IS ALWAYS AHEAD OF ME!?

I'VE BEEN PROMISED TO A FIANCE SINCE I WAS BORN.
EVEN SO... JUST BECAUSE SHE HAPPENED TO MEET YOU A LITTLE SOONER THAN I DID .
THAT'S SNEAKY! IT'S NOT FAIR!!
I KNOW I'M A RUNT AND NOT MUCH TO LOOK AT
I KNOW THAT WHEN I CHANGE, I LOSE MY HEAD AND EAT TOO MUCH
I WAS RAISED TO BE THE HEIR OF THE HEAD FAMILY, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, I'VE SEEN THAT I HAD A BAD ATTITUDE
AND I TRIED TO AVOID HIM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE SO HE WOULDN'T BE REPULSED BY ALL THE WOUNDS ON MY HANDS!
AND SO, AT LEAST NOT BE BE DISLIKED EVEN FURTHER.
IT WAS A LATE START, BUT I GAVE MYSELF A CRASH COURSE IN COOKING SO I COULD LEARN WHAT FUTABA LIKES ..

AND SO THE ONLY WAY I COULD HAVE HIM WAS TO TAKE HIM BY FORCE.

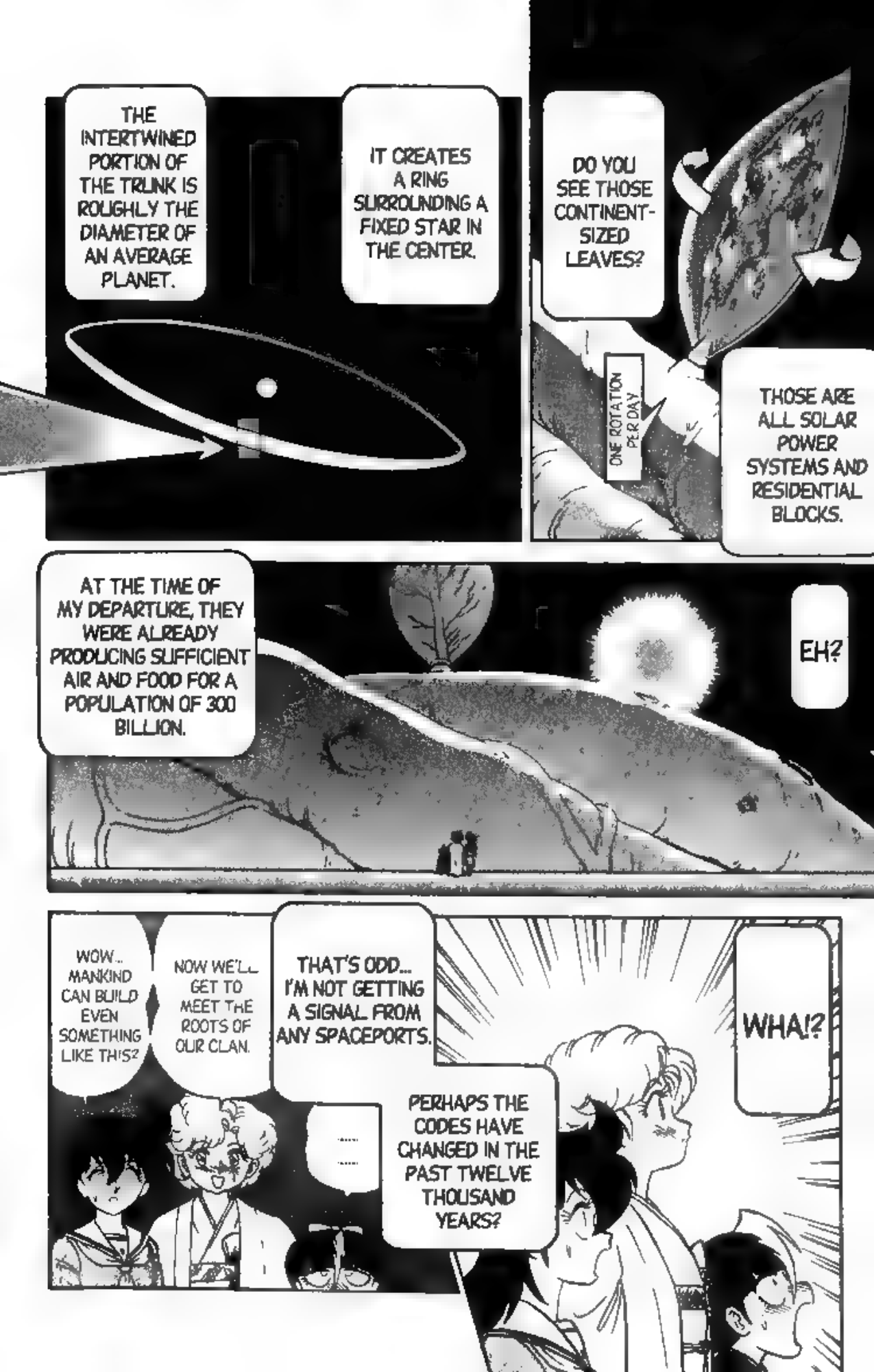
I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD STILL LOSE TO HER...

I'M THE ONE WHO'D SOONER COMMIT LOVER'S SUICIDE WITH FUTABA!!
TELL ME, FUTABA! WHAT CAN I DO!?
WHAT WILL MAKE YOU WANT ME!?
BOO HOO
I, TOO...
...IT'S NOT FAIR...
...SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT...
SNIFF
KURIN..

!
FUTABA!? YOU'RE STARTING TO HAVE FEELINGS FOR HER!
FUTABA-KUN, DON'T!!
DOH!
PLEASE! DON'T GET CONFUSED!!
SYMPATHY AND LOVE AREN'T THE SAME THING!!
THINK ONLY OF ME! LOOK ONLY AT ME!!
AH...
WHAT...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WHAT SHOULD I SAY?
WHY HAS IT TURNED OUT LIKE THIS?
WHAT CAN I DO?
SOMEONE TELL ME!!!
I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT THE CHAOS BUT WOULD YOU LISTEN FOR A BIT?

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, BUT WE ARE IN THE VICINITY OF THE SHEMALE WORLD.
ALREADY!?
I WILL NOW PROJECT THE VIEW FROM OUTSIDE THROUGH THE INNER WALL OF THIS ROOM.
WHOA!
LOOK WELL, FOR THIS IS THE WORLD FROM WHICH YOU CAME.

WH-WHAT IS THAT GIGANTIC IVY?
THIS IS THE MAN-MADE WORLD SHEMALE, CREATED COMPLETELY FROM RESOURCES GATHERED FROM NEIGHBORING STAR SYSTEMS.

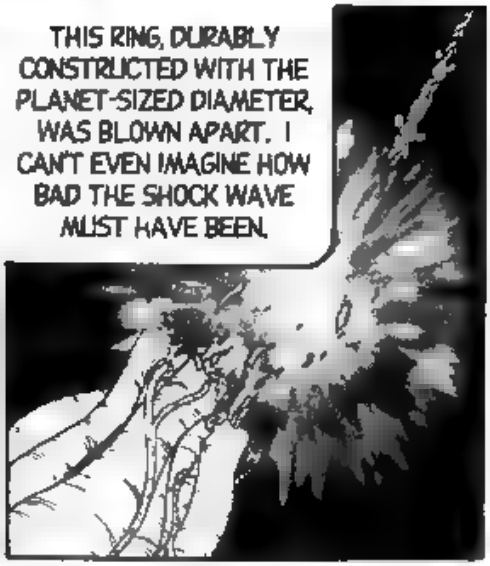

THE INTERTWINED PORTION OF THE TRUNK IS ROUGHLY THE DIAMETER OF AN AVERAGE PLANET.
IT CREATES A RING SURROUNDING A FIXED STAR IN THE CENTER.
DO YOU SEE THOSE CONTINENT-SIZED LEAVES?
ONE ROTATION PER DAY
THOSE ARE ALL SOLAR POWER SYSTEMS AND RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS.
AT THE TIME OF MY DEPARTURE, THEY WERE ALREADY PRODUCING SUFFICIENT AIR AND FOOD FOR A POPULATION OF 300 BILLION.
EH?
WOW... MANKIND CAN BUILD EVEN SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
NOW WE'LL GET TO MEET THE ROOTS OF OUR CLAN.
THAT'S ODD... I'M NOT GETTING A SIGNAL FROM ANY SPACEPORTS.
.....
.....
PERHAPS THE CODES HAVE CHANGED IN THE PAST TWELVE THOUSAND YEARS?
WHA!?

I-IT'S A DISASTER!! THE RING... THE WORLD IS BROKEN!!!

IN ANY CASE, I'LL DOCK IN AN UNDAMAGED PORT.

OH NO... THE ENTIRE WORLD'S SELF-REPAIR FUNCTIONALITY IS WORKING...
BUT THE ONLY LIFE READINGS I CAN PICK UP ARE MICRO-ORGANISMS...

NO... HOW COULD HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS OF PEOPLE JUST BE DESTROYED...!?
ALL THE PEOPLE WHO CREATED THIS WORLD...


THIS RING, DURABLY CONSTRUCTED WITH THE PLANET-SIZED DIAMETER, WAS BLOWN APART. I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE HOW BAD THE SHOCK WAVE MUST HAVE BEEN.

Clasp!

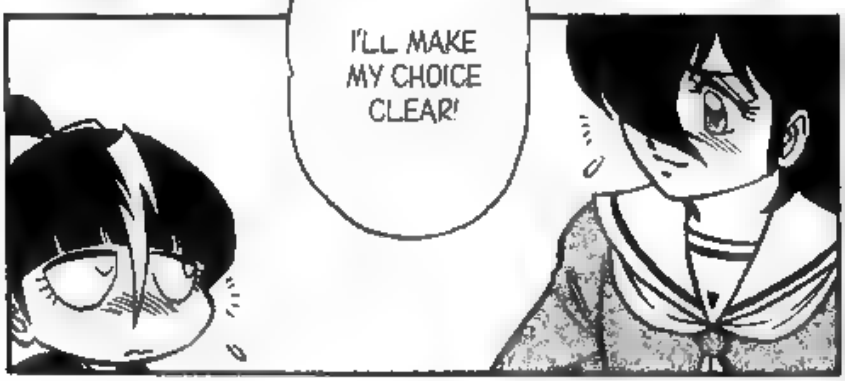
Clasp!

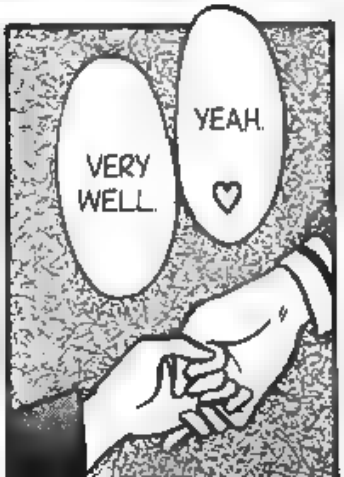
FUTABA-KUN...?
FUTA-BA...?

WE.
WE'RE THE ONLY THREE ALIVE IN THIS ENTIRE WORLD
WHEREVER WE GO
HOWEVER FAR WE GO..
THERE WOULD..
..BE NO ONE.
WHAT IF...
WHAT IF THIS WERE EARTH!?
I CAN'T JUST CHOOSE ONE OF YOU.
EVEN IF I CHOSE MISAKI
EVEN IF I CHOSE KURIN
I'D END UP LEAVING WHOEVER I DIDN'T CHOOSE ALL ALONE!
IT'S NOT A MATTER OF WHO'S BEST
YOU'RE BOTH VERY IMPORTANT TO ME
THIS MIGHT BE SELFISH...
BUT CAN I HAVE... MORE TIME?

I STILL DON'T MERIT HAVING TWO PEOPLE STRUGGLE OVER ME! WE'RE STILL YOUNG!
EVEN KURIN NO LONGER HAS TO BE FOCUSED SOLELY ON ME NOW THAT WE KNOW THAT THE SHIMERU CLAN CAN MARRY EARTHLINGS, RIGHT?

I'LL IMPROVE MYSELF... I'LL BECOME SOMEONE WORTHY OF HAVING TWO PEOPLE COMPETE OVER ME!
AND THEN... IF BOTH OF YOU STILL WANT ME THEN...


I'LL MAKE MY CHOICE CLEAR!

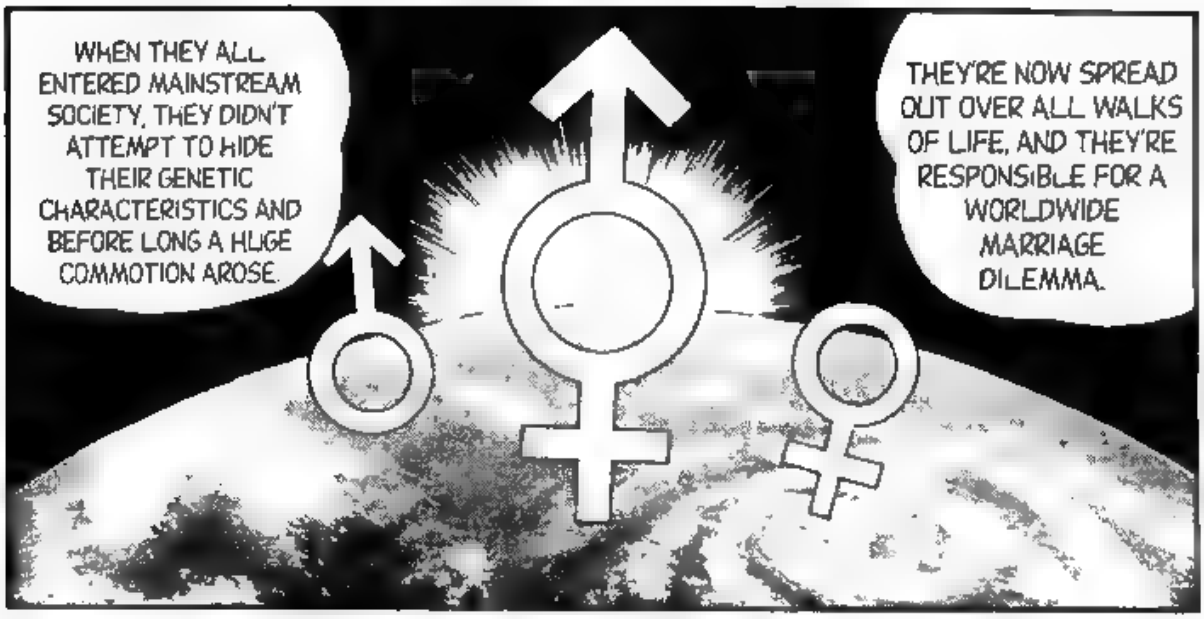

VERY WELL.
YEAH. ♡

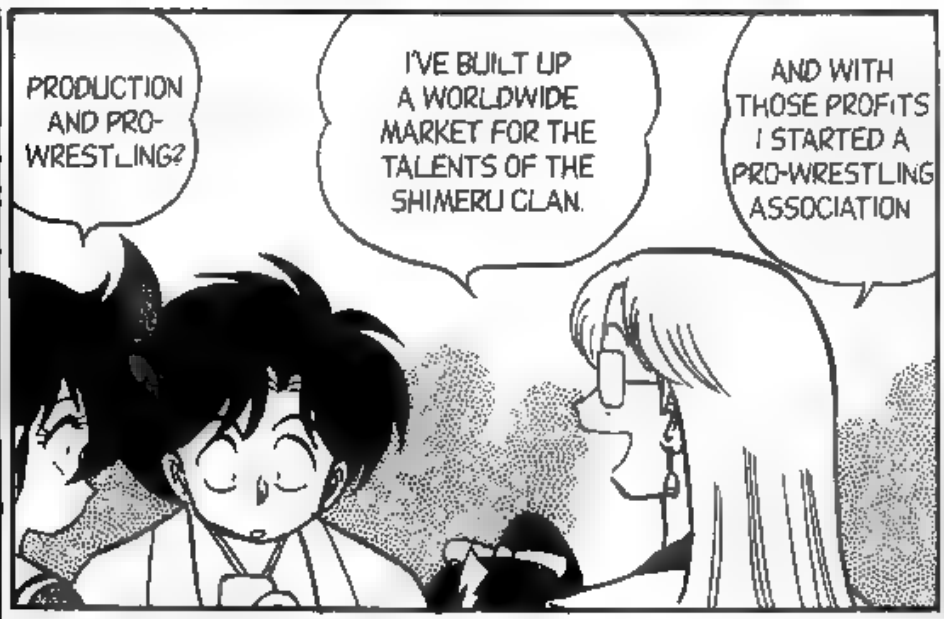
NOW! LET'S RETURN TO EARTH!!
ROGER! AND AS YOUR FARE, I GET TO STUDY YOU.
WHAT!? YOU'RE CHARGING A FARE!?

AND SO...
SAY WHAT!?

WELCOME BACK, YOU THREE!
IT'S BEEN EIGHT YEARS!
N-NEGIRI...!?
EI...EIGHT YEARS?
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
IT'S KNOWN AS THE "URASHIMA EFFECT*."
WH-WHAT THE-!? IS SOMEONE ELSE HERE?
AS I TRAVEL NEAR THE SPEED OF LIGHT, THE FLOW OF TIME INSIDE ME SLOWS DOWN.
...WE WERE IN FOR A ROUGH TIME BACK THEN! EVERYONE ON THE ISLAND WAS CAST INTO THE SEA... A UFO SEVERAL KILOMETERS WIDE WAS...
REPORTED HEADING INTO SPACE AND WE WERE SAVED BY SOME SHIPS SENT TO INVESTIGATE.
THEN WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ISLAND'S INHABITANTS?

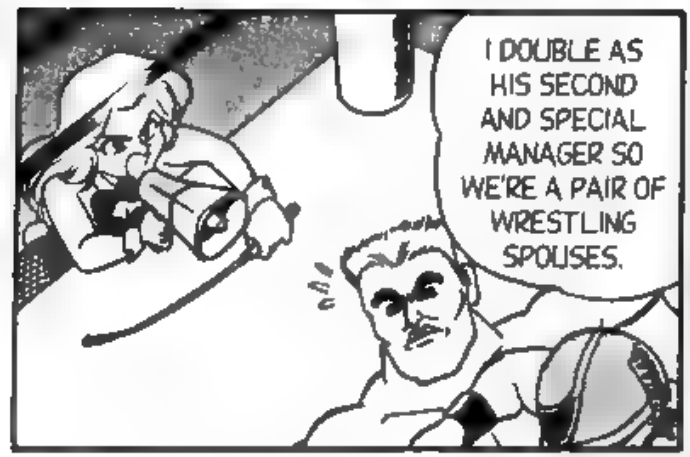
*TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: THIS REFERS TO THE FOLKTALE OF URASHIMA TARO, A JAPANESE STORY LIKE THE AMERICAN RIP VAN WINKLE. AFTER TARO RESCUES A TURTLE FROM BEING ABUSED BY CHILDREN, THE TURTLE CHANGES INTO A YOUNG WOMAN AND BRINGS TARO TO THE SEA-GOD'S PALACE. TARO SPENDS THREE YEARS THERE, BUT WHEN HE RETURNS, HE FINDS THAT 300 YEARS HAVE ACTUALLY PASSED.


WHEN THEY ALL ENTERED MAINSTREAM SOCIETY, THEY DIDN'T ATTEMPT TO HIDE THEIR GENETIC CHARACTERISTICS AND BEFORE LONG A HUGE COMMOTION AROSE.
THEY'RE NOW SPREAD OUT OVER ALL WALKS OF LIFE, AND THEY'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR A WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE DILEMMA.


PRODUCTION AND PRO-WRESTLING?
I'VE BUILT UP A WORLDWIDE MARKET FOR THE TALENTS OF THE SHIMERU CLAN.
AND WITH THOSE PROFITS I STARTED A PRO-WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

CARD: SHUSENDO PRODUCTIONS
SHUSENDO PRO WRESTLING
REPRESENTATION: NEGIRI SHUSENDO

H-
HIYA...
AND... THIS IS MY CHAMPION AND HUSBAND!
CAPTAIN!


I DOUBLE AS HIS SECOND AND SPECIAL MANAGER SO WE'RE A PAIR OF WRESTLING SPOUSES.

...SO, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO START UP A NEW CONTRACT? I WON'T TREAT YOU WRONG.
NOW I CAN PITCH YOU AS "THE IDOL STAR WHO CAME BACK FROM THE STARS!"

I GUESS SO
ALL RIGHT !!!
THE END

BY AND BY, *FUTABA-KUN CHANGE!* HAS ENDED AFTER EIGHT VOLUMES.

PRIOR TO THIS, MY LONGEST RUNNING SERIES WAS *YOU & ME*, ALSO AT EIGHT VOLUMES.

PERHAPS FOR ME (WHO BASICALLY LIKES SHORT STORIES), THE LENGTH OF EIGHT VOLUMES IS A WALL I'VE HIT.

I THINK THAT MY NEXT SERIALIZED WORK WILL BRING WITH IT THE CHALLENGE OF EXCEEDING THIS BARRIER.

MY THANKS GO OUT TO EVERYONE WHO LOVED *FUTABA-KUN!*

Futaba-kun Change! Production Staff:

REGULAR STAFF
Koji Sugitani
Daiyuu Iwamoto
Midori Takei

ASSISTANTS
Kei Eiji
Shunjyousuke Takahashi
(originally Takako Ujishiba)
Daiki Masaki

CHIEF EDITORS
Koichi Kaiyama
Takahiro Habuta
Kaoru Kushima

ORIGINAL REGULAR STAFF
Choji Shimizu
Ami Kyomoto
Kazuo Sakagoshi
(originally Haruki)
Takahiro Toyama
Megumi Keina
Yuichi Oomuku

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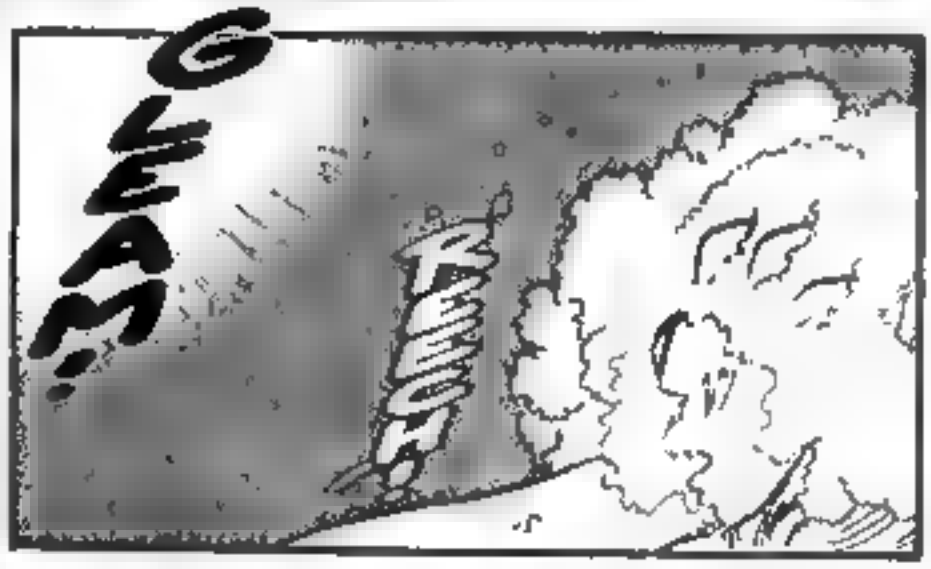
FUTABA-KUN CHANGE

ふたば君チェンジ♡スペシャル

Futaba-kun Change! Special

In The Bath (Part One)

SIRHC 02 11 02



WHOA!!

ZURT!

ZURT!

ZURT!

DOBASH!

SIS!!

OH NO! NOT THE VIDEO CAMERA!

YOU MADE A FAKE CEILING...

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO!?

WELL, YOU KNOW, I FIGURED SHOTS OF YOU NAKED IN THE BATH WOULD BE WORTH GOOD MONEY.

YOU'RE SELLING THEM!?

W-WELL THIS WAS JUST THE FIRST TIME.

FUTANA'S FIRST CUSTOMER, WAITING IN FRONT OF HER DOOR.

WAIT!

WAIT!

WAIT!

After The Swim Team

MISAKI WAS ON THE SWIM TEAM BEFORE SHE JOINED THE WRESTLING CLUB.

FROM THE TEAM CAPTAIN, WE'D LIKE TO HEAR WHETHER MISAKI'S DEPARTURE HAD ANY LASTING EFFECTS.

IT DID

THE POOL WATER IS NO LONGER SWEET.

SWEET... YOU SAID?

YES, SWEET

SHAA!

WHEN SHE WAS AROUND, YOU HAD TO SHOWER THOROUGHLY TO KEEP YOUR WHOLE BODY FROM BEING STICKY

SWISH!

WHEN SUMMER GOT HERE AND WE PRACTICED EVERY DAY, IT FELT LIKE SWIMMING IN COLA OR SUGAR WATER.

IT'S NOT THAT SHE WAS SECRETLY DEPOSITING SUGAR IN THE POOL...

I CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT IT WAS THE HIGH SUGAR CONTENT OF HER BODY D SSOLV.NG.

IN THAT CASE, THE SWIM TEAM MUST BE BACK TO NORMAL NOW.

WELL, ABOUT THAT...

GUESS IT'S JUST ONE THING AFTER ANOTHER...

SINCE THE WATER'S BECOME CLEAN, WE CAN NO LONGER FLOAT IN IT, AND NOW WE KEEP FINDING TEAM MEMBERS WHO CAN'T ACTUALLY SWIM...

BASHA! BASHA!

GASP! GUP!

BASHA!

Sigh

MASTERY

WRESTLING CLUB CAPTAIN YOSSHER MOTOMURA.

A MAN OF THE WORLD WHO HAS SPENT LONG YEARS IN HIS HIGH SCHOOL CAREER.

TRUTH BETOLD, H·S HOUSEHOLD OBSERVES A STRICT EDUCATIONAL STRATEGY.

SON.

YES, FATHER.

TELL ME, HAVE YOU MASTERED HIGH SCHOOL?

NO, SIR. UN-FORTUNATELY MASTERY STILL ELUDES ME.

HOW-EVER....

RECENTLY... TO SOME EXTENT...

I FEEL THAT I'VE COME TO SEE WHAT THE HIGH SCHOOL LIFESTYLE MEANS.

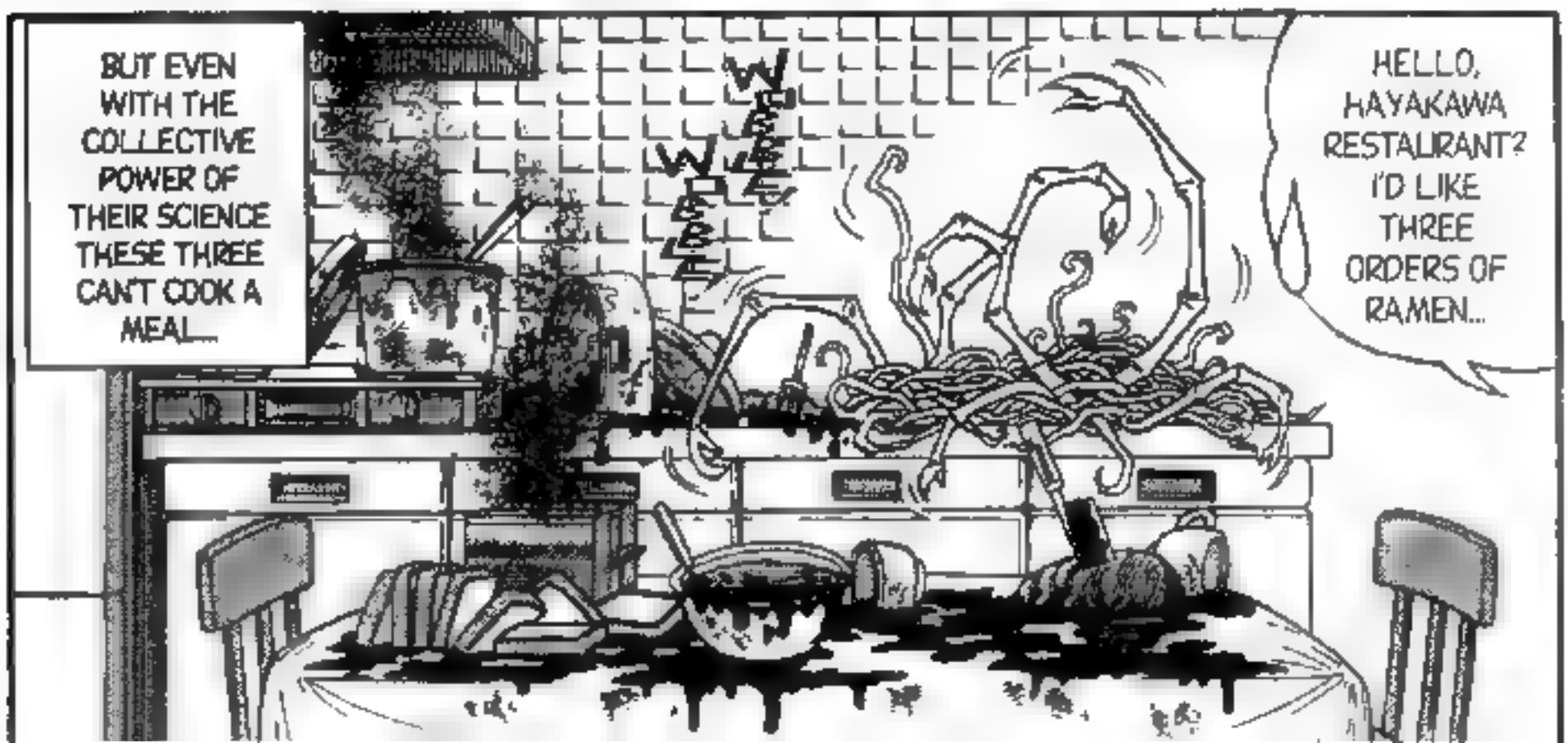
I SEE... CONTINUE ON-WARDS UNTIL YOU FULLY UNDERSTAND IT.

THE NEXT STEP AWAITS AFTER THAT

YES, SIR.

YEAH.
IT IS A QUITE PROFOUND EDUCATIONAL STRATEGY.
THAT'S WHY DAD'S STILL MASTERING THE ROLE OF A RANK AND-FILE BUSINESSMAN.
OR IS IT JUST BECAUSE HE CAN'T GET A PROMOTION..?
S-SO?..

The Power of Science


BUT EVEN WITH THE COLLECTIVE POWER OF THEIR SCIENCE THESE THREE CAN'T COOK A MEAL...
WHEEEEEEEE
HELLO, HAYAKAWA RESTAURANT? I'D LIKE THREE ORDERS OF RAMEN...

BATHROOM²

CREAK

!!

HUH?

WHAT THE!?

AH.

WAHHHH!

AAAAAAAA!

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

W..WASN'T TH.NKING

HOW EMBARRASSING!

Futaba-kun Change♡Special

SIGN GIRLS BATHROOM

THE NEXT DAY

女子トイレ

KIYAAAAAA!!!

MAN.. I DID IT AGAIN..! IT'S GOTTEN TOUGH TO TELL WHEN I'M MALE..

HUFF!

HUFF!

AND WHEN I'M FEMALE..

HUFF!

IT'S SO..

EMBAR-RASSING! BUT THEN..

THOSE FACES THEY ALL MAKE WHEN THEY'RE SURPRISED...

DOK!

DOK!

DOK!

DOK!

DOK!

JUST A MINUTE! HAS THIS AWOKEN SOME SORT OF WEIRD FETISH, FUTABA!?

DOKI

DOKI

DOKI

DOKI

SIGN BOYS BATHROOM

Stealth Love

THE HEAD OF THE MANGA CLUB, WHO FOUGHT AGAINST FUTABA-KUN IN THE "FIGHT FOR FUTABA SHIMERU."

HE'S ACTUALLY THE 25TH DESCENDANT OF THE FUMA NINJA CLAN, KOTARO FUMA.

LIKEWISE, THE HEAD OF THE HOME ECONOMICS CLUB WHO FOUGHT MISAKI IS AYAME NEGORO.

SHE IS THE SOLE DAUGHTER OF THE HEAD OF THE NEGORO NINJA CLAN.

THESE HEIRS OF THE TWO OPPOSING CLANS FELL IN LOVE!

USING THEIR SURROUNDINGS FOR CONCEALMENT, THEIR STEALTH LOVE BEGAN!

NEGORO NINJA CLAN MANSION

KOTARO, KOTARO...

WHEREFOR ART THOU, KOTARO?

IF ONLY I COULD SEE YOU...

AYAME.

HUH?

HERE I AM!

flip

OH KOTARO, I'VE MISSED YOU!!

KOTARO!

WHO GOES THERE!?

IT'S AN INTRUDER!!

THEY'VE SEEN ME!

HURRY, RUN!

HANG IN THERE, KOTARO! A NINJA'S LOVE IS A DESPERATE ONE!

The Family of Love and Justice

PRINCIPAL OF KOMATANE HIGH SCHOOL, AND THE "FRIEND OF JUSTICE" WHO PROTECTS THE PEACE OF THE SCHOOL.

MASKED NINJA OF JUSTICE!

TAKANE HIROIN, ACTUALLY THE DARK MISTRESS QUEEN X

THEY ARE FATHER AND DAUGHTER, BUT THEY DON'T KNOW EACH OTHERS' TRUE IDENTITY.

WE'RE HOME!

P.I.O.M.

P.I.O.M.

F.W.O.O.O.

F.W.P!

HE!L MOTHER! WE'VE JUST RETURNED HOME!!

© H'KARI PRODUCTIONS

WELCOME HOME, TAKANE.

WELCOME HOME, DEAR.

WILL YOU BE TAKING A BATH FIRST, DEAR?

THE PRINCIPAL'S WIFE, ACTUALLY THE HIROIN FAMILY'S RULER OF SHADOWS, MOTHER DARKNESS

OR WOULD YOU LIKE DINNER NOW?

ZU ZU ZU ZU ZU

AND PULLING THE STRINGS BEHIND MOTHER DARKNESS, THE ENIGMATIC DARK EMPRESS WHO NEVER EMERGES FROM HER FACADE, GOD GRANDMA! (ACTUALLY JUST THE FAMILY GRANDMOTHER.)

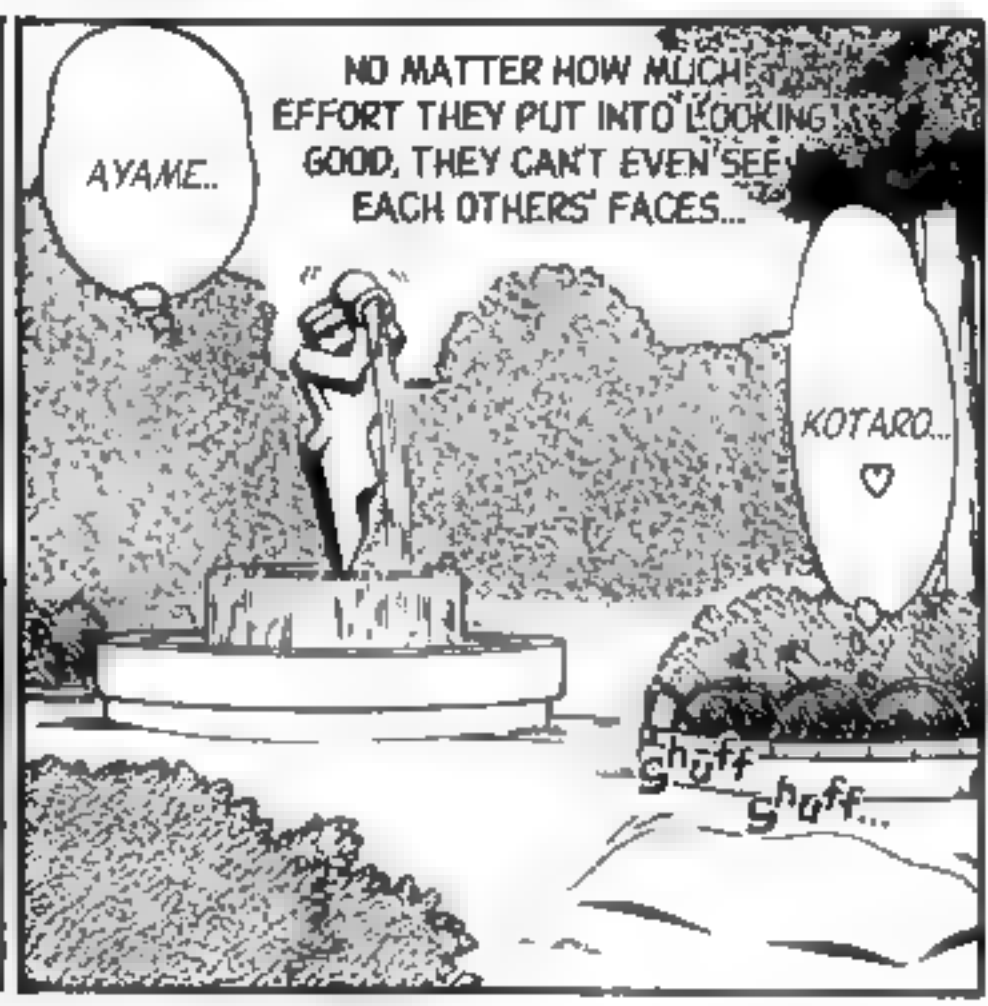
NEVER ONE TO INTERFERE WITH HIS FAMILY'S HOBBIES, ONCE AGAIN HE ALONE SEEKS TO UPHOLD THE CAUSE OF JUSTICE!

GOOD JOB, MR. PRINCIPAL! THE "FRIEND OF JUSTICE" FACES HIS BATTLES ALONE!

TOU!

Stealth Love Continued: Dating

KOTARO FUMA AND AYAME NEGORO... A COUPLE WHOSE CLANS ARE OPPOSED TO THEIR RELATIONSHIP.



Outdoor Schooling

WE WILL NOW COMMENCE OUTDOOR SCHOOLING!

VROOOOOM

DOES EVERYONE HAVE THEIR KNIFE AND COMPASS?

RIGHT!

UH..SIR! WHAT'S UP WITH..?

THE PURPOSE OF OUTDOOR SCHOOLING IS TO LEARN FROM NATURE BY BEING CLOSE TO IT! TROOPS, I WANT YOU TO MAKE IT BACK TO BASE...

WHILE LIVING OFF RAIN WATER, VEGETATION, RABBITS, AND SNAKES. OH, AND FIGHT SOME BEARS WHILE YOU'RE AT IT!

VROOOOOOOOM...

GOOD LUCK!

WAHH!

Morning at the Konishiki House

HEY, SIS!

KARIN.

GU

COME ON, IT'S MORNING. YOU'LL BE LATE!

KARIN!

HNN...

KARIN!

OH.. IS KARIN MY NAME?

DID YOU FORGET YOUR OWN NAME AGAIN WHILE YOU WERE ASLEEP..!?

GOD, YOU'RE NOISY!! "KARIN! KARIN!"

HOW CAN I SLEEP WITH ALL THAT RACKET!?

KA-

Futaba-kun Change♡Special

CH-CHANKO!

GHUPA!

GHUPA!

HMPH!

HEH.. LOOKS GOOOOD.

*TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: CHANKO IS TRADITIONALLY A STEW THAT SUMO WRESTLERS EAT LOTS OF IN ORDER TO GAIN WEIGHT

IT'D BE FATAL FOR US TO OVEREAT IN THE MIDDLE OF A DIET! BEING ABLE TO SEE AND SMELL GOOD FOOD...

IS WHAT GIVES US A VORACIOUS APPETITE!

SO WITH THIS, WE'LL ONLY EAT WHAT WE REALLY NEED!!

EHEH HEH HEH! WELL, WHEN YOU'RE AS SMART AS ME...

HEY, NOT BAD!

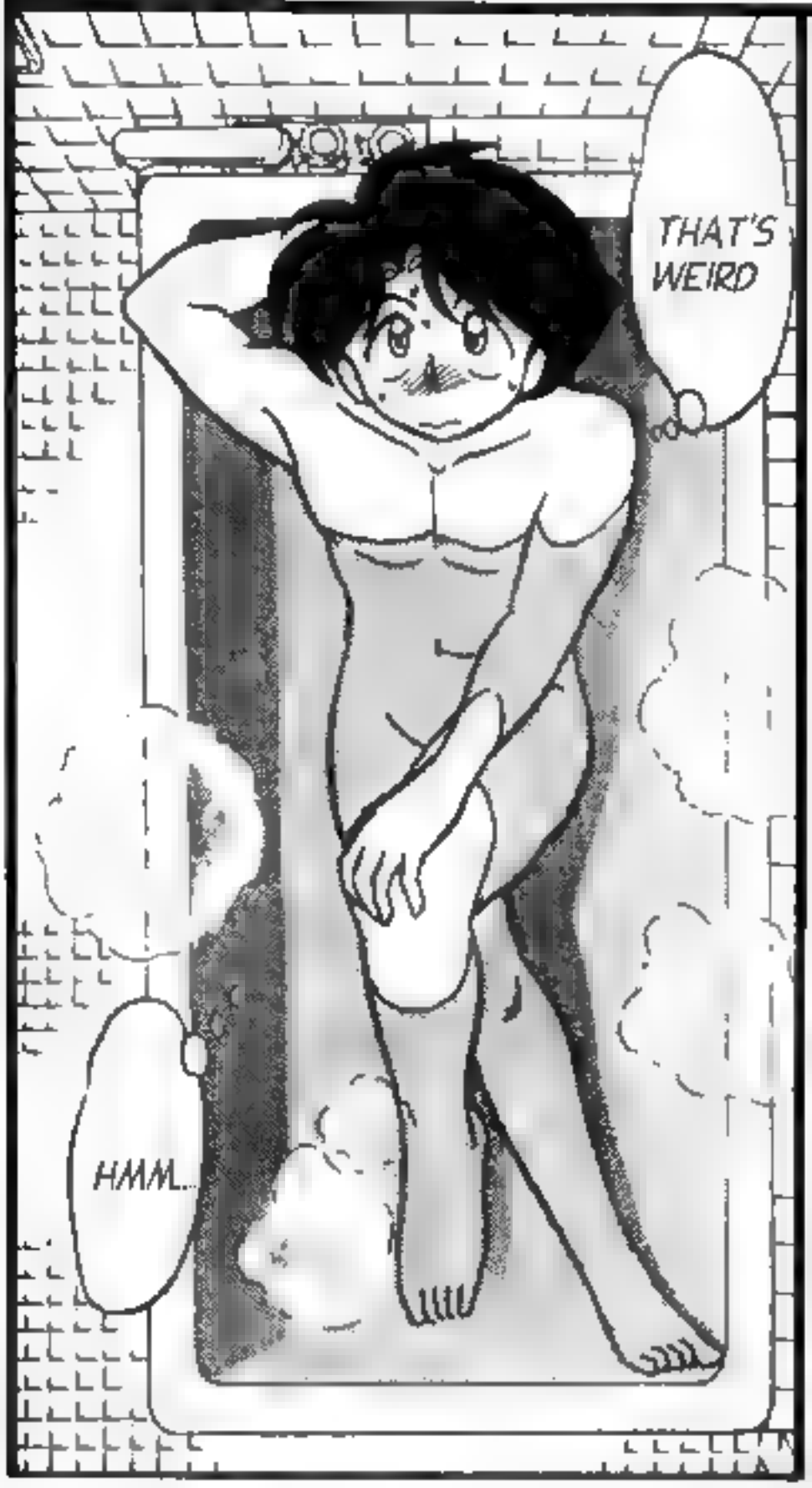
SUUUUU

CHUPA! CHUPA! CHUPA! CHUPA!

HOT!!!

GEEZ, ANZL...

In The Bath (Part Two)



OH SHIT, I LEFT THE FLASH ON!

SPLASH!

SIS!!

OHHH, MY CAMERA!

GRAB

YOU DON'T CARE IF I'M A GUY OR A GIRL, HUH!!?

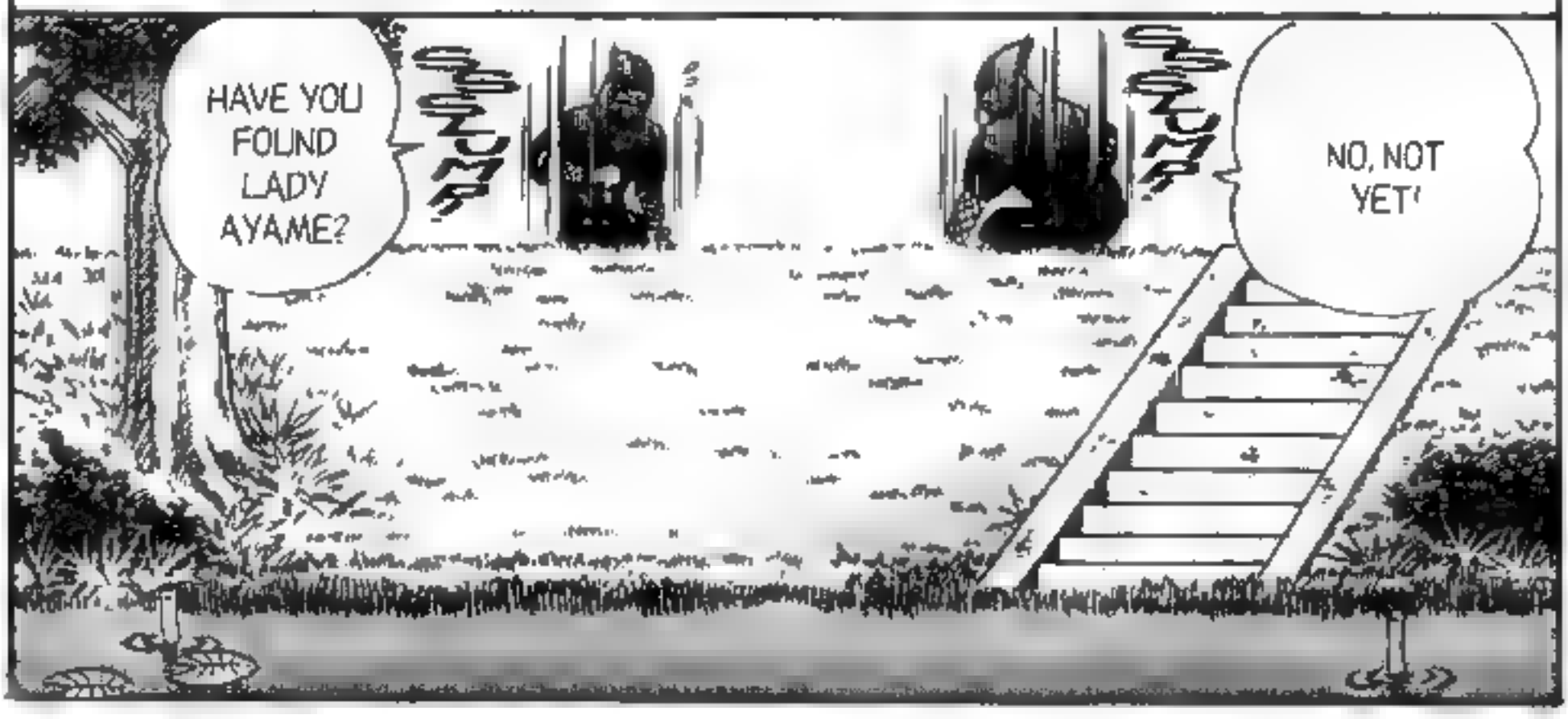
THERE'S CUSTOMERS EITHER WAY... ♡

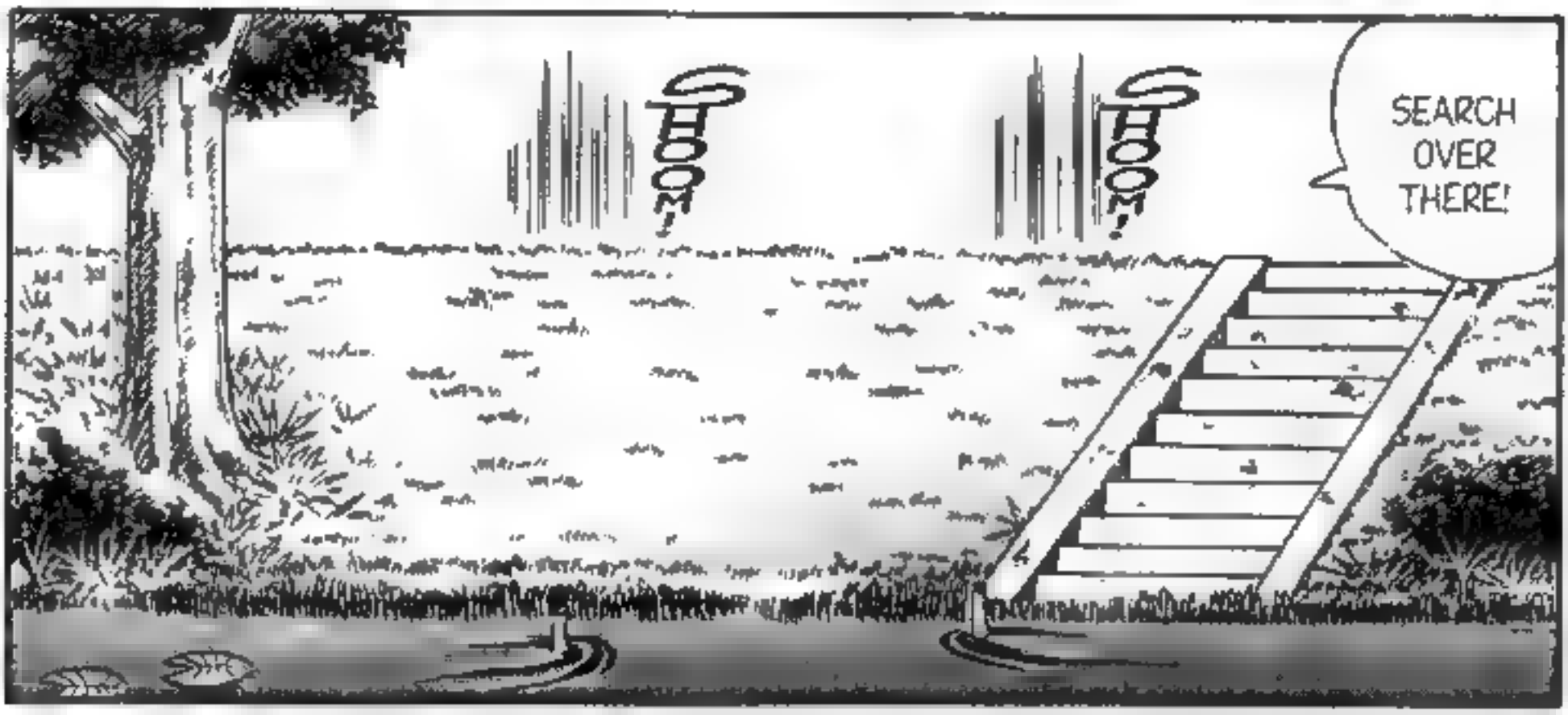
THE CUSTOMER IN QUESTION

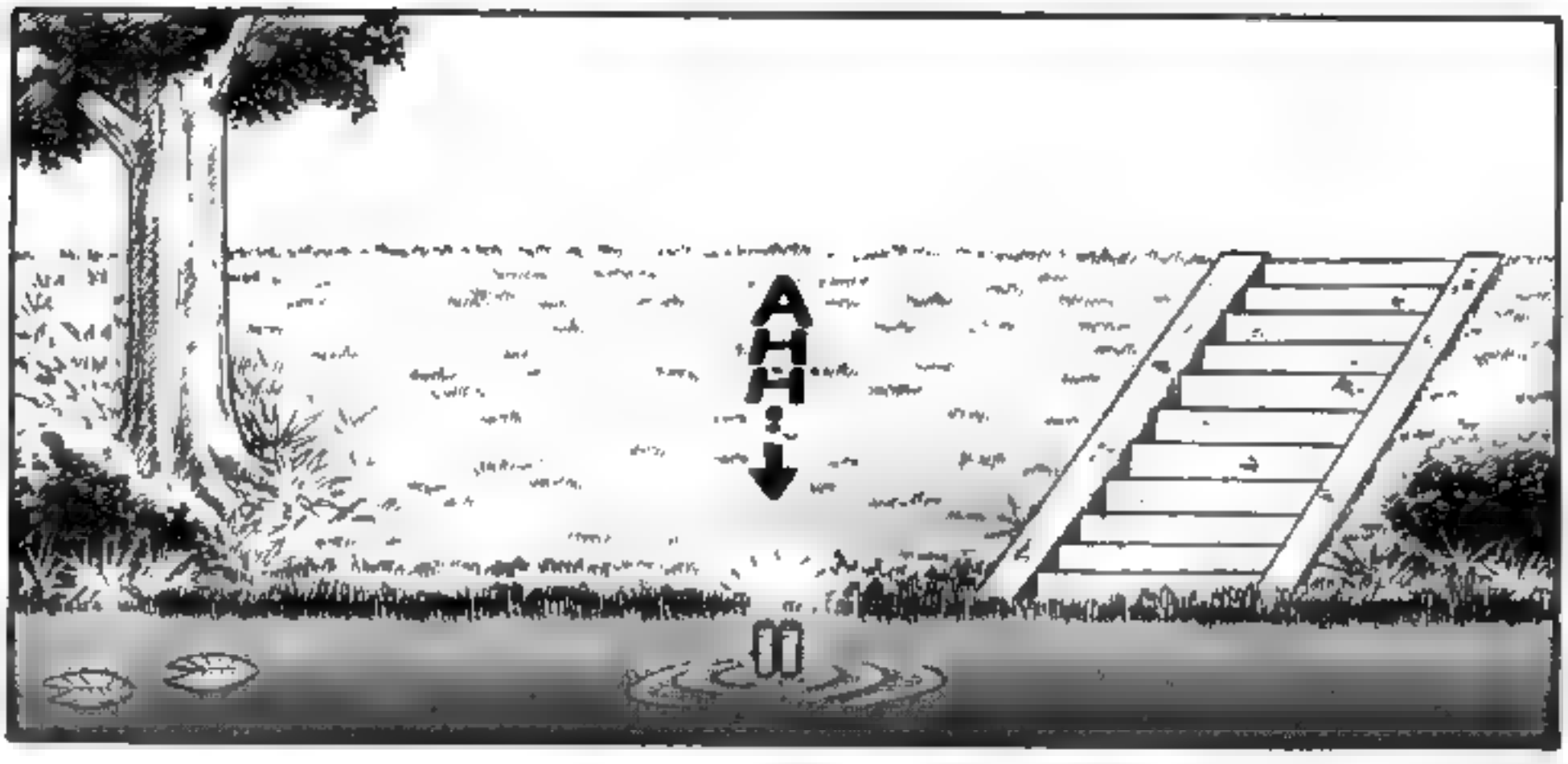
HYUK. HYUK. HYUK. HYUK. HYUK.

SHIMERU...

Stealth Love Continued (again): First Kiss







Futaba-kun Change♡Special (END)

ふたなチェンジ♂♡

Futana-San Change!

SEE YOU LA-

ACK!

BAKASH!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WE'LL BE LATE.

OWW...

I TRIPPED OVER SOMETHING SOFT.

WHAT!? SOMEONE'S COLLAPSED!?

YOU MEAN IT'S NOT A BAG OF TRASH?

HELLO, ARE YOU OKAY!?

UGH...

FUTA-NA...

BAOOO

WHAT A SURPRISE! SO YOU'RE MY SISTER'S FIANCE...

I NEVER GET TO EAT FOOD THIS GOOD WHILE I'M TRAINING, YOU KNOW?

HIS FIRST MEAL IN HOW MANY DAYS?

BUT I MEAN IT, THIS IS REALLY GOOD. DID YOU MAKE IT?

NO, NOT ME...

FROOP!

I DID.

BOOM!

M-MISS KURIN OF THE HEAD FAMILY!!

IT... IT'S BEEN SO LONG...

THAT IT HAS, MISAO... WHY ARE YOU SO SCARED?

I'M SORRY, I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY ON ME..!

THAT WASN'T VERY NICE!

KEEP IT DOWN...

I'M HUNG OVER AND MY HEAD IS KILLING ME.

UUH!

YOU CAME HOME WASTED AND SLEPT NUDE AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU?

!!

!

DOK-!! DOK-!!

I.M. HELLO AGA.N!

Y-YES!

MISAO!

HAHA!

YOU CAME BACK!
♪

F--
F.NE.

HOW'RE YOL DOING?

!!

THAT'S GOOD. ♡

HEY! THEY GET ALONG WELL. ♡

...I KNOW WHERE THIS IS HEADED"

!

BARF BARF BARF

SURE ENOUGH!

MMPPHHH!!

RU——SH!

FUTABA, GET ME SOME WATER...

SIS!

WASTING AWAY...

FORGET WATER! HOW COULD YOU DO THAT TO MISAO!?

YOU'RE A MAN. SO DON'T BE SO PENILE-RETENTIVE.

URP...

THAT'S "ANAL-RETENTIVE" AND THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT!

十三弾！

BRRR!

SHAA

KANKI OVER FUTABA'S HEAD. "TAKE TWO!"

AH... AH...

FUTA-NA!

THROWING UP INTO MY MOUTH LIKE THAT!!

HOW COULD YOU!?

...YOU COULD HAVE ASKED FIRST

I WOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPY TO OBLIGE...

KABOOM

...DOES THAT MEAN IT WOULD NOT HAVE MATTERED IF YOU'D REFUSED BEFOREHAND!?

WELL... NATURALLY THAT'S NOT TRUE FOR JUST ANYTHING...

HMMM. YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY FROM WHEN YOU WERE TOO SHY TO SAY ANYTHING TO MY FACE.

HUH '2

ALL RIGHT! LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BE A FUN DATE TODAY I'LL GO GET READY SO WAIT FOR ME!

O-OKAY

WEAKNESS!

DOOKK!!!

IRONCAT

IRONCAT L.L.C.

July 2002
Volume 3#6
$2.95 U.S.
$4.50 CAN

FINAL ISSUE!!

FUTABA-KUN CHANGE

WH-WHERE'D YOU GET THAT IDEA FROM?

THIS MAY COME AS A SHOCK...

I'M WEAK-WILLED AND SHY...

AND FUTANA IS A STRONG-WILLED WOMAN...

YES... I ALREADY KNEW ALL THAT.

AT THIS RATE I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO BE A DOMINANT HUSBAND!

I THINK THAT'D BE TOUGH EVEN IF YOU WERE STRONG-WILLED...

FURTHERMORE, IF SHE FINDS OUT I'M HEAD OVER HEELS, I'LL END UP BEING HER YES-MAN MY WHOLE LIFE!

IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS YOU'VE GOT IT BAD FOR HER...

...AND SO I WANT YOU TO HELP ME ON OUR DATE!!

GYAH !?

AFTER ALL!

MISS KURIN WAS SUPPOSED TO BE COMPLETELY ABOVE HOUSEWORK.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MANAGED TO GET HER TO COOK AND CLEAN ON HER OWN!

YOU'RE THE HUSBAND'S HUSBAND!!

Y YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG..

SIRHC 02.11.04

I BEG YOU!!

HEY! DON'T GLOMP ONTO ME THERE!!

GRAB

AND SO...

Futana-san Change♡

I GUESS WE CAN START OUT BY WANDERING AROUND A BIT.

O-OK.

THEY LOOK GOOD TOGETHER.

DON'T BE STUPID, SIS...

MEGU MEGU

MIKIHA

COFFEE

SALE

SIGN: CREPES

UM... ISN'T IT KIND OF BORING JUST WALKING AROUND?

NOT AT ALL!

IT LETS ME SHOW OFF THE CUTE GIRL I'M WITH.

OH! HEY, NOT BAD.

MISAO, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?

OH... I'M HAPPY! ♡

SHE SWOONED AFTER JUST ONE COMPLIMENT

EVEN SO, I... I...

SIGH..

THAT'S MY SISTER FOR YOU, NO QUALMS ABOUT USING HER MOST EFFECTIVE LINES ON HER DATE!

BUT THEN SHE GOES AND HITS ON OTHER GIRLS.

SHE SURE CAN BE A PLAYER!!

AH...

SHE'S SO MOT VATED AND DE- ♡ DICATED! IT'S FAN- TASTIC..

NO! YOU'RE MISSING THE POINT!

HUH? YOL MEAN THAT ISN'T CLSTOMARY ON THE MAINLAND? FUTANA SAID..

SHE LIED!

WHAT !?

TH-THEN... ALL THE EFFORT I'VE SPENT TRYING TO FOLLOW THAT CUSTOM...!

GONG

G.G.

ISN'T SHE EVER SUSP C.OUS OF ANYTHING...?

SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN PRETTY DOCILE...

ANYWAY! YOU HAVE TO CONFRONT HER ABOUT THIS!

Y..YES, Y-YOU'RE RIGHT!

RON

HUH...? SHE'S GONE.

Restaurant terribles

SHE'S LAUGHING IT UP WITH YET ANOTHER GROUP OF GIRLS IN THAT RESTAURANT OVER THERE.

OH NO, I CAN'T INTERRUPT THEIR MEAL...

YES, YOU CAN!

IGNORING ONE'S FIANCE IN THE MIDDLE OF A DATE IS OBVIOUSLY WORSE!

GET IN THERE AND USE YOUR RIGHT TO COMPLAIN!

RIGHT!

SHOOM

F-FU-TANA!!

HEY!

GOOD TIMING!

TAKE CARE OF THE BILL FOR ME. ♪

OK. ♡

...HUH!?

CLACK

THANKS A MILLION!

.....

UH OH. MISAO DOESN'T HAVE ANY MONEY!

I DON'T HAVE ANY EITHER.

THIS BITES!

THERE SHE GOES AGAIN...

KURIN! CHANGE FOR ME!!

YOU NEED MY HELP?

I CAN'T JUST CHANGE THAT EASILY EITHER, YOU KNOW!

...ALL RIGHT!

CLACK

FLOATING PHEROMONES

ENGULF

HMPH...

I AM HUNGRY!

KYAA!!

KYAA!!

YOU CAN HAVE MINE!

YOU CAN ORDER ANYTHING!

HERE'S SOMETHING!

WAIT-ER, WE NEED ONE MORE!

LET ME TREAT YOU!!!

LET'S EAT TOGETHER!

KYAA!!

WHA...?

KYAA!!

KYAA!!

MISAO

MISAO

MAKE A BREAK FOR IT!

WHAT!?

OH FUTABA-KUN!?

COME ON, HURRY!

TA TA TA TA TA

HEY, IT'S FUTABA-CHAN.

WHERE?

HER, RIGHT THERE!

WOW!

CHECK IT OUT, FUTABA-CHAN!

I DON'T SEE ANY-THING!

Y-YOU'RE FAMOUS!

GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT.

WE NEED TO FIND MY SISTER QUICK.

BEFORE SHE GETS INTO MORE TROUBLE...

OH MAN, SHE'S ALREADY IN DEEP!

FUTA-NA!!

HEY!

SMILE

TAG!

SLAP

WHEW, THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE.

SIS!!

HOW COULD YOU LET MISAO TAKE A FALL FOR YOU!? WHAT ARE YOU THINKING!?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?

THIS ISN'T "FUN!" GO HELP HER OUT!!

I'M DONE NOW.

COME ON, I'M JUST HAVING A BIT OF FUN WITH HER.

WHA?

OH, THAT'S RIGHT, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW STRONG MISAO IS.

SHE'S WEAK-WILLED, BUT SHE'S WORLD CHAMP MATERIAL IN HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT.

YOU FLAT-TER ME...

WHAT DID YOU DO FOR YOUR LAST TRAINING JOURNEY?

WELL, I WENT TO INDIA...

...AND FOUGHT WITH TIGERS.

WHOA

HOW-EVER...

KRAK

I'M JUST GLAD I GOT HERE IN TIME...

DON'T EVER DO ANYTHING THAT DANGEROUS AGAIN...!

SOR-RY...

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP

I MUST NOW LEAVE TO TRAIN ONCE MORE.

WHEN I NEXT RETURN, I WILL BE A BIT MORE FITTING FOR FUTANA.

...WHAT KIND OF GUY IS FITTING FOR HER?

THAT WAS PRETTY RUDE NOT TO SEE HIM OFF, SIS!

IT'S NO BIG DEAL!

LETTER HURRY AND COME BACK. I WON'T WAIT FOR YOU FOREVER --FUTANA

Futana-san Change♡ END

The *Very Boys Explorers: Bonus Chapter*, which begins on the following page, was something I created in 1987, as a dojinshi. It was after the first *Very Boys Explorers* volume was published, and before I started volume 2. Hiroshi Kawaguchi, the lead actor and party chief of the TV show "Hiroshi Kawaguchi's Explorers," passed away at about that time. His show was a major influence on my story, and so it came to pass that the story became something of a memorial to him.

In this particular installment, the families of the exploration party members are introduced. Originally, the entire plot took place only on the grounds of their academy, so I thought that bringing some previously unseen elements into the picture would be fun for those who were fans of the story.

ともだち
少年探偵団
〈番外編〉

WINTER VACATION. WE EXPLORATION PARTY MEMBERS DECIDED TO GO SKI IN THE HIMADANA* MOUNTAIN RANGE.

*TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: "HIMADANA" SOUNDS LIKE A PUN ON "HIMALAYA," AND AS A STAND-ALONE PHRASE IT CAN MEAN "TOO MUCH SPARE TIME."

BUT BEFORE THAT, THERE WAS AN OBSTACLE WE HAD TO OVERCOME...

WHAT!? SKIING!?

FORGET ABOUT IT!

WHY NOT, DAD!?

LETTING KIDS STAY OUT OVERNIGHT BY THEMSELVES? GET REAL!

WHAM!!

GIVE ME A BREAK!

I'M NOT LETTING YOU STAY OVERNIGHT JUST TO SKI!!

THEN WE WON'T STAY OVERNIGHT, ALL RIGHT!?

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: EXCEPT FOR TAKEMICHI, THE FAMILY MEMBERS ARE NAMED AFTER FRUITS. ICHIGO = "STRAWBERRY," RINGO = "APPLE," AND MIKAN = "MANDARIN ORANGE." THEIR LAST NAME "FURUITSU" = "FRUIT" IN JAPANESE.

古現空手道場

DAD! GUYS! FOOD'S READY!

SIGN: FURUITSU KARATE DOJO

HEY HEY, TIME TO EAT!!

THANKS, TAKEMICHI! YOU ALWAYS SEEM TO DO THE COOKING.

DON'T WORRY, I ENJOY IT.

SLURP

SLURP

SLURP

GI (KARATE UNIFORM): ICHIGO

OH YEAH, I GOT A CALL FROM MISS SAKAUE...

SOMETHING ABOUT YOU ALL GOING SKIING?

FATHER • MIKAN FURUITSU

GI (KARATE UNIFORM): RINGO

WHY NOT?

SURE, YOU'VE GOT MY PERMISSION.

OR ARE YOU SCARED TO GO WITHOUT A CHAPERONE?

UH... YEAH

BUT IT'S OK, I'M NOT GOING.

WELL...

NO, BUT...

THEN WHAT ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT!?

IT'S NOT THAT...

WRING WRING

WILL ANYONE COOK, CLEAN, DO LAUNDRY, OR KEEP TRACK OF OUR FINANCES WHILE I'M GONE?

NOW THAT'S A BIG PROBLEM!!

FORGET IT!

I CAN GO, CAN'T I, PAPA?

YOU MAY NOT, NO MATTER HOW SWEETLY YOU ASK!

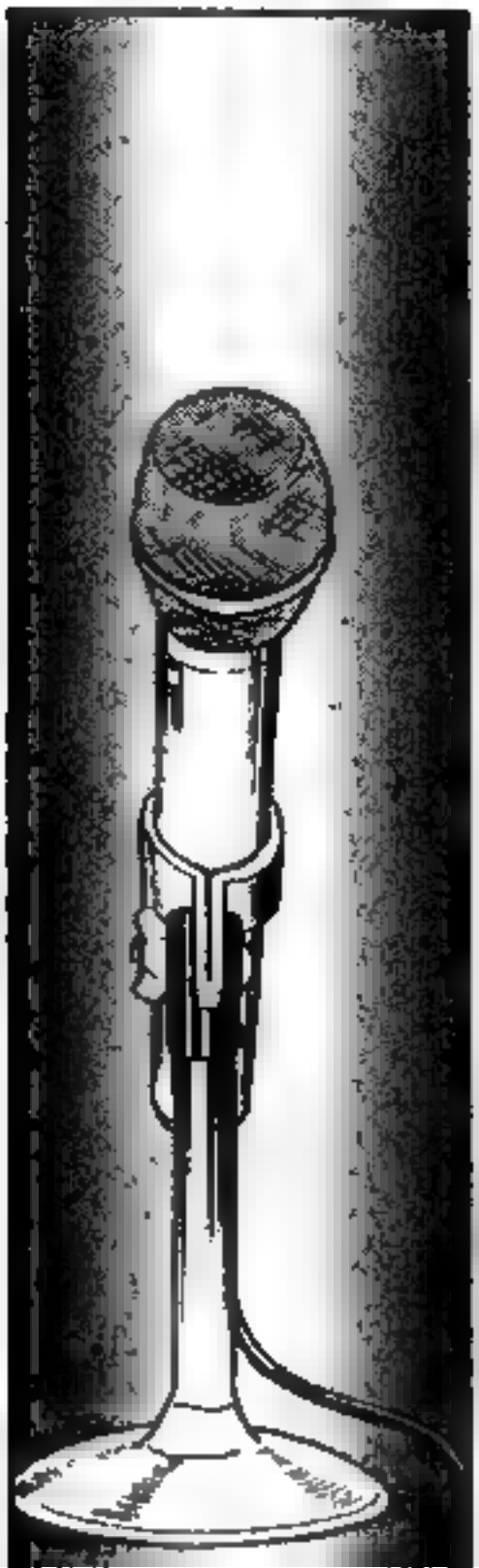
HMMM...

FINE THEN, I'VE GOT ANOTHER IDEA!

I WON'T BABY YOU ANYMORE!

DOOM!

NOOO!! DON'T THROW YOUR PAPA AWAY!



HEY DAD!

OH MY GOODNESS! THE ONE WHO BEGINS THE CONVERSATION IS THE SON, IJIRO!

COMMENTATOR MOTHER, WHAT COULD BE THE MEANING OF THIS PREEMPTIVE STRIKE!?

THAT'S TRUE.

I'M GOING SKIING.

OH MY GOODNESS! WE'VE HIT THE THE FOCAL POINT ALREADY! WHAT A DARING APPROACH!

RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW IN THIS LIVING ROOM, A FAMILY CONVERSATION IS STARTING! WHAT DO YOU THINK, COMMENTATOR MOTHER!?

THAT'S TRUE.

NOW THEN, WILL WE SEE A COUNTER STRIKE FROM THE PARENTS!? IN THIS CALM BEFORE THE STORM WILL THEY LITERALLY FAN THE FLAMES IN THIS CONTEST OF KIN!?

OH MY GOODNESS! HE'S SAYING THE BALL IS IN OUR COURT!! COULD THIS FAMILY HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR SUCH A THING WHEN IT WAS FORMED TEN YEARS AGO!? NOW BOTH PARTIES ARE AT AN ABSOLUTE STANDSTILL!!

RAHHH

RAHHH

THAT'S TRUE.

RAHHH

RAHHH

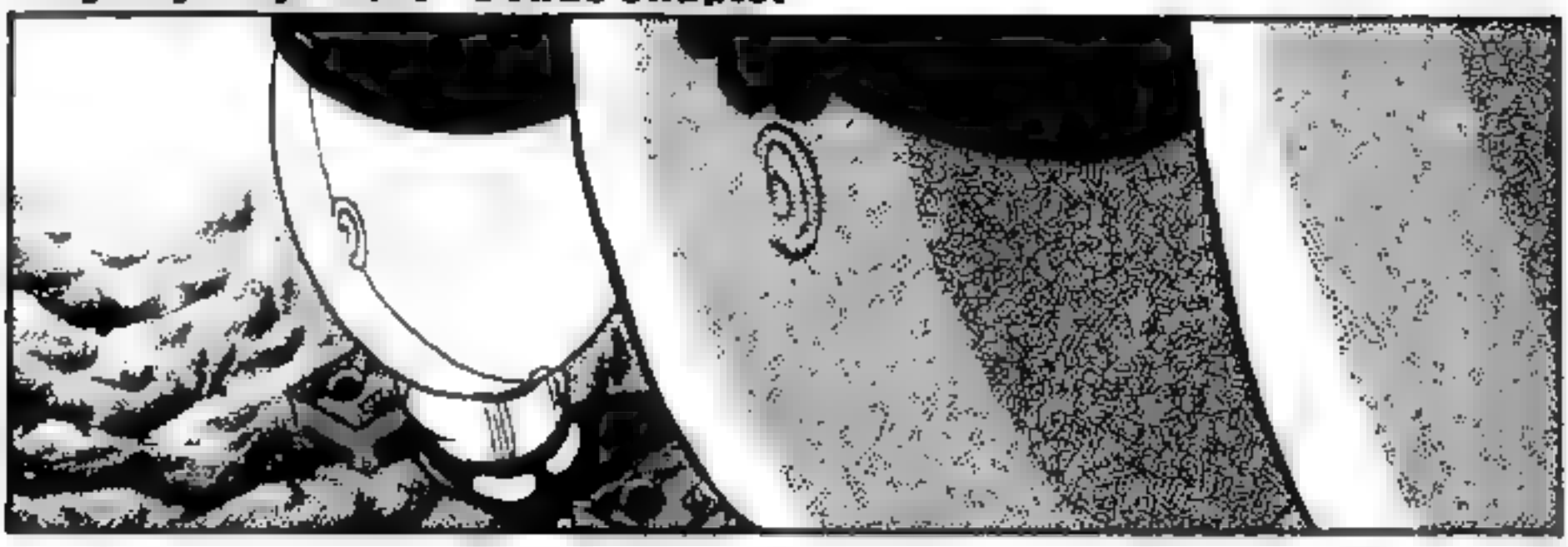
THERE IT IS! THEY'RE BOTH IN THE RING! THEY'VE DECLARED THEIR INTENT!! THERE'S NO GOING BACK NOW! NO CHOICE LEFT BUT TO FIGHT! RIGHT HERE IN THIS LIVING ROOM WONDERLAND, ONE OF THEM IS GOING DOWN!!

OH MY GOODNESS! THE OPPONENT IS DONE PREPARING FOR BATTLE!! WHAT AMAZING VIGOR! IT LOOKS LIKE IF THIS CORNER DOESN'T GET MOVING AND CONCENTRATE THE POWER IN HIS HEART, THE LION MAY FALL BEFORE THE LION CUB!

.....

NOTHING BUT TEXT

I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH OF INTRODUCING THESE FAMILIES...



KA LICK KA LACK

WHAT!? WE'RE GOING SKIING WITHOUT STAYING OVER ANYWHERE OR EVEN TAKING A NAP!?

WELL, EXCUSE ME! I HAD TO COMPROMISE.

BUT IT'S NUTS!

IT'S A MATTER OF WOMAN'S PRIDE!

THIS IS IT! THE SOUL OF THE CHALLENGER!! HOMURA SAKAE APPROACHES THE SNOWY MOUNTAINS STEP BY STEP WITH HER WOMAN'S PRIDE ON THE LINE!

WHAT IS IT THAT DRIVES HER ON SO!? WITNESS THIS POWER THAT'S FUELED BY HER PASSION FOR THE MOUNTAINS! NOW, SHE MAKES A MAN TO MAN PROMISE TO...

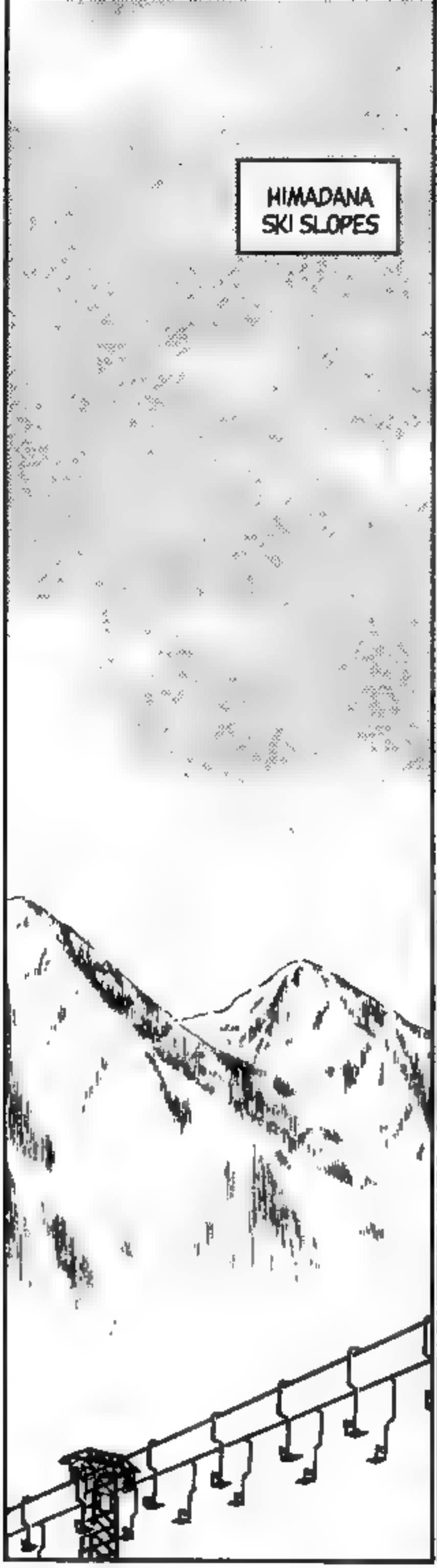
I'M A WOMAN!!

KA KA LICK LACK

BOP

OW!

HIMADANA
SKI SLOPES



AN ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN WAS SPOTTED!!

THEY'RE SEARCHING THE MOUNTAINS, SO EVERYONE'S AT HOME.

WHAT'S THE POINT OF BEING STUCK INDOORS?

I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE THEY HIRED A FAMOUS MATAGI*...

!

*TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: THE MATAGI ARE A PEOPLE INHABITING THE HIGHLANDS OF THE TOHOKU (NORTHERN HONSHU) REGION WHO LIVE MAINLY IN MOUNTAIN HUTS AND SUBSIST ALMOST TOTALLY BY COLLECTIVE HUNTING.

ZUN

!!

ZUZUNNN

SHAA

ZUZUNNN

HE'S... STRADDLING THE MOUNTAIN.

SO THAT'S WHY HE'S A MATAGI...

ISN'T THAT MORE ODD THAN A SNOWMAN?

*TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: JAPANESE PUN: THE WORD "MATAGI" CAN ALSO BE A FORM OF THE VERB "MATAGU," WHICH MEANS "TO STRADDLE."

SIZZLE

HEH HEH HEH... AN ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN, HUH?

DON'T LET ME DOWN! I'LL BE SUPERVISING!!

EXPLORATION PARTY, WE HAVE A MISSION!!

MOVE OUT!!

LOOK, FOOT-PRINTS!

CRUNCH

CRUNCH

CRUNCH

IT'S CLOSE BY...

THERE IT IS!

ZM

ZM

ZM

ZM

ZM

ZM

ZM

AVALANCHE

RUMMBLLLE

RMMB

SECRET TECHNIQUE!

HALT

PERPENDICULAR!

SHIFT

REVERSAL!

SHIFT

SLIDE!!

*TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: THE SECRET TECHNIQUE IS THAT THEY ACTUALLY SHIFTED THE SHAPE OF THE GROUND TO AN ANGLE PERPENDICULAR TO WHAT IT WAS BEFORE. THE CHARACTERS DIDN'T MOVE, THE GROUND ITSELF DID.

RUMMBBLE

WHEW... CLOSE ONE...

I WISH I'D GONE SEARCHING WITH THEM...

SHWAA!...

HAAA... SO TIRED...

RUSTLE

AH!!

SAY WHAT!?

I'M AN ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN?

THAT'S MEAN...

SO THAT'S WHY YOU'VE BEEN CHASED AFTER A LOT LATELY...

UM... WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU DOING UP HERE?

TO BE HONEST, I'VE ACTUALLY BEEN LOOKING FOR AN ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN FOR TEN YEARS...

I HEARD THEY SHOW UP IN THESE PARTS SO I'VE BEEN PROWLING AROUND.

COME BACK HERE, SNOWMAN!!

!!!

I-IT'S HIM!!

IT'S MY DAD WHO WENT LOOKING FOR A SNOW WOMAN FIFTEEN YEARS AGO!!

HUG

OHH, MY SON!

...I'M GOING HOME!

And now, a word from the artist, Hiroshi Aro:

HELLO TO ALL YOU AMERICAN READERS! DID YOU ENJOY THE SERIES? THANK YOU FOR READING ALL THE WAY TO THE END!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

I REMEMBER HOW SURPRISED I WAS WHEN I HEARD THAT PEOPLE IN AMERICA WANTED TO READ MY STORIES EVEN THOUGH THEY'D NEVER BEEN ANIMATED...

IT'D MAKE US SO HAPPY TO KNOW PEOPLE READ THEM AND REMEMBER THEM FONDLY.

SO NEXT UP, IT'S MY TURN!

HEY, HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE!

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MII, THE GHOST GIRL AND HEROINE OF MY UPCOMING SECOND STORY SCHEDULED FOR ENGLISH PUBLICATION, ***YOU & ME***

HOWDY! NICE TO MEET EVERYONE!

YOU & ME IS AN OLDER STORY THAN ***FUTABA-KUN CHANGE.*** SO THE ART STYLE IS OLDER AND THERE ARE SOME ROUGH SPOTS THAT STAND OUT. THIS WAS DUE TO THE FULL-FORCE YOUTHFUL ENERGY OF THE ARTIST. I HOPE YOU LIKE IT!